

T H E
LUCKY IDIOT:
O R,

FOOLS HAVE FORTUNE.

Verified in the L I F E of

D. Pedro de Cenudo,

Whose Follies had generally a prosperous
Event: But when he pretended to be
Wise was usually Unfortunate.

Improv'd with Variety of Moral Remarks,
and diverting Amusements.

Written in *Spanish*, by Don *Quevedo de Alcala*.

Now Rendred into Modern English by a
Person of Quality.

*Omne tulit Punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci:
Ridentem dicere verum, Quis vetat.*

L O N D O N:

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T O T H E
R E A D E R.

I Have some kind of Assurance that this Piece of Innocent Wit and Mirth will not be unacceptable to the World, since it is Illustrated with several Moral Reflections, notable Remarks, and diverting Amusements; wherein the Author (who was much esteem'd in his own Country for the many large Volumes of Learning which he Published,) takes occasion Satyrically to inveigh against several Ill Customs and Vices of the Age: carefully avoiding all prophane and Lascivious Expressions, a Crime too Familiar with our Modern Writers in this kind. He acquaints his Readers he is fully satisfied, that Ignorant and Insipid People upon the first View of the Title-Page of his Discourse will lay it aside with all the Carelessness and Neglect imaginable, as who should say, what's all this to us? Not considering, that by this slight they discover themselves to be more concern'd in it, than they would have it thought they are; And he wishes that every Fool would be sensible of the Obligation he is under to the Author for draw-

A 2 ing

To the READER.

ing his Picture, how short soever it is of the Original; For it would puzzle a Wise Man to collect all the Follies, that a silly Wretch is able to commit. This Tract seems to be a Paradox, the Praise of Folly having been attempted in that kind, by the Learned Erasmus; and Other Authors have writ Encomiums on the Gout, the Venereal Disease, &c. As if they intended to laugh Men out of their Vices and Immoralities by this way of treating those Subjects. And certainly some Follies may be avoided, if Men would seriously attend to the Design of our Spaniard in this Fancy; which will then have its desir'd Effect; For as the Poet says;

Ridentem dicere Verum, Quis vetat?

Why main't the Truth be spoke,

Though only in a Joke.

There is a Proverb, that Spanish Wit and Spanish Bread are equally scarce, and excellent in their kind; and 'tis manifest, that fewer Books are Printed in that Tongue, than in many other European Languages; But those which are Publish'd, have an uncommon Strain of Wit and Ingenuity in them; as Don Quevedo's Visions, Don Quixot, Gusman, Lazarillo, &c. Neither is this small Piece without its peculiar turn of Thought, and may therefore claim a Share of the Approbation of the English Reader.

J. L.
THE

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THE

THE
LUCKY IDIOT:

O R,

Fools have Fortune.

Verified in the Life of D. *Pedro Cenado*,
the Foolish Spaniard.

C H A P. I.

*He gives an Account of his Parentage, Birth
and Education.*

TO the Mothers of the whole
Race of Fools, Greeting, and
your Attention I humbly be-
seech you; if I may without
Vanity bespeak so great and so illustrious
an Audience; bless yourselves in your
renowned Issue, a Generation of People
fully satisfied in themselves, and whose
A 4 Posterity,

8 *The Lucky Idiot: Or,*

Posterity, as the Fruit of their Ignorance, shall bring Honour to their Progenitors: Suffer yourselves to be undeceived, for you will find that in all Places and Ages, he that ennobleth and enricheth a Family, is a foolish Son; fortune indulging their Imperfections, and befriending their Mis-carriages, to manifest her Power in bestowing her Favours upon those that are most unworthy of them: And doubtless you cannot be insensible of the Truth of this Maxim, who have brought into the World so great a number of Blockheads. To confirm your Opinion in this Matter, instead of multiplying Arguments, we shall fortify the same by relating the true History of an Idiot in our times: which may have the better relish with the Intelligent Reader, because it shall be presented to him in his own Words, without Reflections or Observations.

Know then, my dear Friends, that I was conceived in original Folly; and can truly say, I was a Fool on all sides. My Father was a Man well born, had taken his Degree of Batchelor of Arts at *Alcala*, and was in a promising way of gaining a most honourable Employment: He fell in Love with my Mother, being a young Woman of good Extraction, and likewise

Fool by Complexion. This good Father of mine being wounded with the Darts of her killing Eyes, was desperately enamoured of her, and therefore resolved if possible to enjoy her; to which end he used the common Bait of promising her Marriage, with all the solemn Protestations that Lovers commonly make upon such Occasions; She, Poor Soul, being deluded by his Vows, and Oaths, consented he should use her at his Pleasure, and let him lye at Rack and Manger: But being soon cloyed with her Charms he would have deserted her, had she not appeal'd to the Magistrate, who obliged him to marry her, when her Honour was even at the last Gasp, being very big with Child, and so compelled him (as the Proverb says) after he had defiled his Hat to put it on his Head.

From this Folly of theirs I was born, at a Time when the Council of the *Indies* nominated my Father to go to a Government in the other World, which was like burying him in this. Now I being newly born, he considered, that the embarking me with him would endanger my Life, and therefore concluded to leave me in charge with a brother of his, then Curate of *Odon*, a Village Three Leagues from

Madrid, and taking his Wife along with him, proceeded on his Voyage to *America*.

I was then put out to suck the Breasts of a jolly Woman a Farmer's Wife at *Odon*, who was rude and unpolish'd both in her behaviour and discourse: Here you may already perceive that I began to make some Apology for my education; for what could I learn from a Woman of this Quality? She gave me in her Milk the Quintessence of Garlick, Onions, and bad wine, which was her daily sustenance; so that you may observe I was rustical both in Body and Soul: But as Fortune many times takes care of those who are forsaken by the World; I grew Strong and Robust with this homely food: However I retained the Physiognomy of my Nurse, having a brown Skin, and a surly Frown, which probably happened by the Ill-looks she always put on, when she fed me; such Power has imagination over us from those we are conversant with, since the Dread of her Severity did so possess me, that I continually ruminating there-upon, it appeared upon my Face; my Head being likewise disturbed by her hideous scolding, and my Patience confounded by continual Vexations.

Being

Being arrived to seven years of Age, my Uncle thought it was time for me to learn to Write and Read, in which I was instructed in the Company of another Nephew of his of the same Age, who lived with him: My Countenance indicated me to have a contumelious and rebellious Wit, with a Kind of stubborn Reservedness; so that in the Town they usually, courteously term'd me, *The Frowner*, instead of calling me Fool. My Uncle was of a rough Temper, but had a plodding Head, so that though at every turn he whip'd my School-fellow for neglecting his Task, yet he seldom corrected me, reckoning me a Fool, and that therefore my Dulness was to be excused, but not the other, who was a brisk lad, and ready witted. From this time forward my Folly was very beneficial to me, since it saved me from many a whipping, and I lost nothing in the Conclusion, for I learn'd as much as my Fellow, who though he had more Capacity, yet was not inclin'd to Learning.

C H A P. II.

*The Follies he committed, while he continued
with the Curate, his Uncle.*

MY Uncles Living was worth him Eight Hundred Ducats, or Two Hundred Pounds a Year, yet was he so wretchedly covetous, that he would keep no Servant, but made us his Drudges to answer all his Occasions. He often employed me to fetch him Wine, but having a liquorish Tooth, I was always his Taster, and supplied the Deficiency with Water out of the River, and he finding it so small was much concern'd, saying, *This Cenudo* is so great a Fool, that the Vintner puts any thing upon him, he would therefore trust me no more upon such Errands. My Comrade gladly undertook my Office, and being naturally addicted to play he lov'd to be gadding abroad. However, that I might not be idle, my Uncle ordered me to take Care of the Bells, and ring them upon all Occasions, a thing which I judged very troublesome, and which it would be almost impossible for me to perform, if my Folly did not help me out.

This

This Office the good Curate contrived for me to save the Charge of a Sexton; but my Head was not steady enough to run up and down the turning Stairs of the Steeple so many times a day, not to endure the Noise of the Bells; for having suck'd in so much Onions and Garlick with my Milk, my *Pericranium* was in a perpetual Giddiness.

I remember once that in the dead time of the Night there came a Country-Fellow to my Uncle in great haste, intreating him to give Order for knocking the Bells, his Wife being in Labour (a thing usual in *Spain*.) My good Curate then waked me out of a sound Sleep, saying, Rise *Pedro* instantly, and ring the Bells for Child-birth quickly, quickly; I got up immediately, and as Fools have good Memories, I retained the Words quickly, quickly, and knock'd the Bells so nimbly, that the Inhabitants of the Town really believ'd it had been for Fire: At the Alarm, they all got out of their Beds, running from their Houses, some with Pitchers, others with Kettles and Buckets, and some with Water-Engines straight to the Church, and asked me where, where? I replied in such a Man's House, thinking they had inquired where the Woman in
Travel

Travel was, and the Cutrate being again fallen asleep I had no-body to inform me of my Mistake.

The Neighbours, who were got together in great Numbers, hastened to the House, and seeing a great deal of Smoak coming out of the Chimney, for they had kindled the Child-bed Fire with Straw, which is often poor People's Fewel, they all concluded the House was on Fire, and play'd their Engines upon it, pouring also their Pitchers and Kettles into the Chimney, and untiling the Roof to quench it; Others fell to breaking open the Doors with a terrible clattering, and hearing the Woman crying out in her Child-birth Pains, they carried her out of her Bed in their Arms into the Street, no Intreaties nor Arguments being able to prevent it. When they came near to see where the Fire was, such Abundance of Rubbish had fallen upon it, that they thought the Poor Woman owed the saving her Life to their Diligence, who was deliver'd before all the People in the middle of the Street, among a multitude of Lights, so that there were Witnesses enough to prove the Child was truly born of its Mother, and not surreptitious: The Relation, which the Husband gave, was not sufficient

cient to perswade the people that the Bells were not rung for the Quenching a Fire, but for Childbirth; and though he swore it an Hundred times, yet they would not believe him. So common it is, that more Credit is given to a lying Rascal than to an honest Man: I was sorry the Fault was not laid at my Door, for I was weary of my Place: My Uncle suspected the matter, but dissembled it at present, because he would not anger the parties aggrieved, yet resolved within himself to discharge me from my Office in a short time.

A while after dyed one of the principal Men of the Parish, a Gentleman of a good Family; but a person that would make a Fool of himself, and would go out upon a Holiday, when he was a little Elevated with wine, and dance to a pipe and a Tabour with the Young Men and Women of the Town in a ridiculous manner. My Uncle hearing he was dead came with all speed to me, saying, Go *Pedro*, go ring for the dead without Lazyness merrily, merrily. He thought I understood his meaning, and that a Word was enough to me; I went to the Belfry incontinently, resolving to obey him exactly; ruminating in my Mind, why he should bid me ring for the Dead merrily; what thought

thought I to myself, surely the Physician, or else the Lawyer of our Town is dead, that my Uncle has a desire I should celebrate it with so much mirth; so began to consider, that the merriest Tune I knew was that which was played on the Tabor, so I knock'd two of the Bells with both my Hands so much to the Life, and with such an Air, that many People swore to me afterwards they could not forbear Dancing to hear it.

The Relations of the dead Man imagining that I affronted him, because of his former Frolicks, came with their Half-Pikes and Lances toward the Belfry, crying out, *Thou Rogue, thou Rascal, dost thou know what thou art doing? What's the meaning of it?* I seeing such a Squadron so armed at all Points was the more confirm'd in my Mistake, that they came to make merry for the Death of one of the afore-mentioned with a Battle Dance, wherein they skirmish in *Spain*, with Daggers, Lances, and other Weapons in their Hands, dancing all the time; I then struck the Bells more nimbly, and pleased myself with the Sound: But they redoubling their Bawling, I held still a while for Curiosity, and heard them say to me, *Thou Villain, who bid thee ring after this manner?* I supposing, they

they had admired my Musick, replied, My Uncle ordered me to do it: Scarce had I pronounced these Words, when they ran in all hast to his House; by which time he came puffing and blowing, with his Gown tuck'd up at his Girdle to the Church, sweating till he drop'd, and roaring out, *What dost thou do, Fool and Beast that thou art?* Perceiving he was angry, I left off knocking the Bells, and he cryed, *Come down, thou Brute, come down, thou wilt undo me:* I came down accordingly, and found my good Curate surrounded with these Executioners, and making a great Noise; I regarded not what they said, only heard my Uncle cry, *He'll tell you, let him tell;* they all replied, he had told them already, it was done by his Order, and drawing nearer to him, my Uncle cryed, *Come hither, you Son of a Whore, did I bid thee beat that Tune?* (My Mother could have said no more to me) why, said I, did not you bid me ring merrily, and what Tune can you have merrier than that; hereupon they all fell a laughing, and went away, satisfied that it was only my Folly which Occasioned it: Who now would not have thought that this Foolishness should have been my undoing, yet it was quite contrary,

trary, since it eased me of my Trouble; for my Uncles Anger being appeased, supposing I did it out of Ignorance, he never corrected me for the Blunder, but to prevent his being brought into such another Premunire, he deprived me of my Sexton's Place, and gave it to my Companion.

He had some suspicion that my Cozen was a great Lover of his Belly, and in regard he had more Kindness for him than me, he employed him to take care of the Larder; now the Curate being wretchedly saving, he thought it proper, we should change Places; he therefore made me Overseer of his Provisions, and gave me the Key of the Room, wherein he lock'd up all his Dainties: You see here, that I am Master of what I greedily desired, by my Folly. He delivered all to me by Account, as Cheeses, Honey, Pom-Citrons, Boxes of Quince Marmalade, Two Dozen Gamons of Bacon, and an hundred other Rarities presented him by the Nuns: Of all these I took a little daily; but doubting that I should be discovered one time or other, and discharged from this delightful Employment, and that he would without more ado turn me into the Quire to sing, I thought

thought upon this Stratagem, that I would perswade him we were extreemly haunted with Mice; and with the Thoughts of this politick Device I fell boldly upon the Chéeſe, Biſcakes and Sweet-meats, and eat as much as I had a Mind to; but having a great Paſſion for the Gammons of Bacon, I was afraid the Mice would not excuse me for meddling with them, who uſually eat little of it, becauſe they are hindred by the Sword.

Now my Uncle going in daily to obſerve the Condition his Proviſions were in, I took an Occaſion to tell him; certainly, Sir, there is no enduring the Neighbourhood of theſe Mice, for I always find they have devoured ſomething or other; if you think convenient, we will put in a Cat, who will ſoon ſpoil their thieving Trade. This Advice pleaſed my Uncle wondrous well, who was enraged at the Robberies of theſe Vermin, and ſo made an Hole in the Door for her to go in, though I was the Cat that did all the Damage, and took what I pleaſed of the Saſſages and Gammons, and while the other Servants were at Maſs, and a little Old Woman, we had was gone to Market for Meat, I fried all for my Supper, and drove the hungry Spirit out

out of my Guts. The Curate coming home took notice what Ravage was made, and instantly concluded the Cat was the Author of all the Mischief, yet seem'd well enough contented, saying, 'tis no no great matter, these filthy Mice have four Sauce with their sweet Meat, for it costs them their Lives to fill their Bellies. But this was his Mistake, since I always kept the Cat-hole shut, for being both of one calling, I was unwilling she should come in Snacks with me.

C H A P. III.

*He Robs his Uncle of Four Hundred Crowns,
and goes to Madrid.*

Sixteen Years I spent in the Life I have related, not knowing there was any happier, which yet ought not to be reckoned my Misfortune; for while a Man desires no more than what he at present enjoys, he may truly be said to have his Hearts Desire; I always had an Inclination to Reading of Books, and often carried some of my Uncles with me into the Fields, where I perused them, particularly, *The History of Gusman the Rogue,*
Obregon

Obregon the Squire, *Lazarillo*, and other Histories of this kind, wherewith I entertained myself pleasantly in Summer under the Shade of the flourishing Trees, and in the Winter sitting in the Sun.

It happened at the Time of one of the great Festivals, that a Gentleman of Quality was committed Prisoner to the Castle of *Odon* for a Quarrel which he had with a Nobleman belonging to the Court; this Gentleman undertook to treat the Inhabitants of the Town with an Entertainment at his own Charge, and to that end sent for a Company of Stage-Players from *Madrid*, who represented an excellent Comedy with variety of Wit and Humour, being withal very Rich in Cloths, and the Ornaments of the Stage; I, who had never seen nor heard any thing like it, was wonderfully surprized with Admiration, and followed the Players with open Mouth, as if I expected their Graces should have entred into me. They acted several Comedies in the Castle to divert the Gentleman, at which I was never absent, and was so attentive, that I lost not one Sentence which I could carry away in my Memory. After they had continued there Three Days, I perceived they made Preparations to be gone, and had a couple of

of Coaches at the Gate, having already taken leave of the Governour of the Castle. Upon this mournful Sight I was almost deprived of my Senses, wishing I had never seen them, for it seemed impossible, that I should live in their deplorable Absence; and so much did this earnest Desire work upon me, that it overcame my Natural Cowardise and Restraint, wherewith I had hitherto been to my Shame kept in awe.

I came to one of the Comedians, and ask'd him civilly whether they were going; he told me to *Madrid*; and do you act there as often as you have done here? He laughing replied, there, Friend, why we act there two Comedies every day, and sometimes half a Dozen, in Gentlemen's Houses. I understood already that *Madrid* was the principal City in *Spain*, but I knew not wherefore it was so, or what made it the Metropolis of the Kingdom; for I never had been out of the Town of *Odon*, nor ever desired my Uncle to let me go abroad; but when I heard what was done in *Madrid* every Day, and that it was not many Miles off, I thought myself to be very near Heaven, and cursed my Fortune, that had for sixteen Years deprived me of seeing a Place where there
were

were two Comedies a day, and many times half a Dozen in particular Houses. I then resolved to say to Death, when he came with his Writ of Execution to take away my Life, that there wanted yet Sixteen Years, because those, which might be imputed to me all the time I dwelt at *Odon* was not to live, nor any thing like it; It is not possible, said I, for any Man to live among the Barbarians in this Town, that have not two Comedies every day, and many times six in Noblemen's Houses. This I ruminated every Moment in my Imagination.

It happened afterwards, that during the Confinement of that Gentleman in the Castle, there came two Men with two Ladies of courtly Behaviour and pleasant Conversation to make him a Visit; I went up and down amongst them, being become all Eyes, and thinking myself in a new World; I soon became acquainted with a strait limb'd Page about my own Years, having an earnest Desire to inform myself of all Affairs; he told me, that those with whom his Master past away the Tedioufness of his Imprisonment were Men of Sense, who composed Verses, and such Comedies as had been acted at *Odon*; I asked him if the Ladies came from *Madrid*,

drid, he said yes; I added innocently, and do the Cavaliers and Gentlemen of that City keep several Women; aye, and the Poor Rogues too, said he, maintain as many as their Industry and Money will allow them: I told him, I had read that the Grand Turk had great Numbers of Women; Friend said he, the Grand Signior keeps them as his Wives, but these never commit Matrimony; so much the better, reply'd I, for this way of Living with them pleases my Gusto, and a Man may converse as pleasantly with them as the Great Turk does with his Ladies. When I understood, that there were diverting Comedies, ingenious Men, delicate and beautiful Women at *Madrid*, and that they would be complaisant without the trouble of Marriage, only with the Expence of a little Money, I was wholly ravish'd with the Thoughts of all these Enjoyments, and resolv'd to go thither with the first Opportunity.

But being sensible that if I went to *Madrid* without Money, I should be expos'd to all manner of Inconveniencies, Miseries and Insults, I began to contrive how to put myself in a Condition to go thither with all necessary Accommodations. My Father sent every Year by the Fleet

from

from the *Indies*, about Four Hundred Crowns to the Curate my Uncle to pay for the Charge of my Education, and maintain me in the University of *Salamanca*, in studying the Civil Law, a thing which he in several Letters recommended to my Uncle; who usually returned Answer, that tho' I was still a Fool, yet he hoped in a little time to teach me more Discretion, that I might not be scorn'd and derided by my Fellow-Students. About this time the Fleet and the Four Hundred Crowns arriving, I thought it was great Pity that he should be paid with such Liberality, who bred me up with so much Misery; and as a strong Inclination always finds Arguments to strengthen it, I judg'd it to be but a Case of Restitution to take from him that which came upon my Account; and I find it may be necessary in order to be a Thief, that one should be thought to be a Fool.

My Uncle laid his Breeches, wherein he kept the Key of his Treasure, under his Pillow every Night, so that it was impracticable to open his Cabinet without manifest Peril: I therefore found out this Contrivance; about two a Clock in the Morning it being very dark, I rise without Noise, and opened the Street

B . . . Door,

Door, and all the Rest to that were the Curate was, and returning to my Bed, I began to roar out aloud, Uncle, Sir, Uncle, Thieves, Thieves; he waking and hearing me bawl, instantly jumps into the Floor, and taking his Sword which lay always on his Bed-Tester, in a great Consternation ask'd, where dost thou hear the Rogues? Where are they? At the Street-Door they make a Noise, said I; with this he hastens to the Street Door, which was at some Distance, bidding me rise and light a Candle; all this while my Cozen was asleep; and in the mean time I search'd my Uncles Pockets, took out the Key of the Cabinet where the Four Hundred Crowns were newly deposited, and finding them in a Purse, I left the Cabinet open; then although I found the Candle I made no haste to light it, till I had first secur'd my Purse, the Joy of my Life, and my only Comfort.

The Curate finding the Doors open, went first to shutting that next the Street, locking it, and putting the Key in his Pocket, imagining the Thief was within, and that not being able to get out, he should catch him with the Plunder in his Hands; he then cryed out, Boy bring hither the Light; I came down with the Candle,

Candle, and found him with his back against the Door in a fighting Posture, cutting and slashing the Air, and calling out, you sacrilegious Rogues, what rob the Curate, one of Heaven's Ambassadors, what steal from the Church, you impious Miscreants; sure the Church must be in great Danger: when the Light was brought, come *Pedro*, said he, follow me, and let us search every Room strictly; we did so, and went locking them all up till we came where the Robbery had been done; when he saw the Cabinet open he was like to have fallen into a Swound, and was all over in a cold Sweat, as if they had taken away his Blood; and no wonder, for Money is the Blood of Life, without which no Man is able to Breathe. At length recovering a little; well said he, 'tis done and all over, we are come too late; then going nearer, and finding the Purse wanting, he cryed out aloud, all's gone; the Thieves have made their Escape, and that was the Noise thou heardst at the Door. Let us go to the Justice of Peace, and make Affidavit of what I have lost; but now I think on't, do thou stay at home, and lock the Door on the Inside, for fear it should be the Devil, and he should

come for more, for who else would be so wicked to rob a Priest. He then brought the Justice, who took an Account of the Matter as is usual in such Cases, and then departed.

I let some days pass over before I took leave of my Uncle's House, but one pleasant Morning I resolved to depart, and from the Chearfulness thereof judged it was an happy Omen of my future Success; so placing my Purse of Ducats on my left side near my Heart, I travelled toward *Madrid*, imagining that my happy Stars had directed me to this new way of living; the greatest trouble I then had was, that my Sirname of *Hernandez*, which I inherited of my Parents, and that of *Pedro* before it, sounded like a merry *Andrew* on a Stage; but remembering that I was more indebted to my Frown than to my Father, since I had thereby enjoyed such a quiet Life, I thereupon resolved to call myself for the future *Pedro Cenudo*, or the *Frowner*.

C H A P. IV.

At Madrid he enters himself into the Service of an Aragonian Gentleman. He relates the Follies he was guilty of in that Station.

IN a short Time I arrived at *Madrid*, and went directly up to the Market-place, where seeing a Number of People stand together, I ask'd what they were; they told me they were *Alguazils* and *Scrivanos* (or Bailiffs and Attorneys.) It grieved me already to think I was come where there was so much Justice: Sinner that I am said I, we could never live quietly in our Town, only for having one Lawyer amongst us, how shall I endure this Place where there are so many? A little farther I met the Page with whom I was acquainted at *Odon*, he said he was glad to see me; I told him I had some difference with the Curate, and was come from him with a design to live at Court; thou comest in a lucky Hour, replied he, for a Gentleman lately desir'd me to seek him out a Page, and if thou accept'st of it, thou wilt live very happily. I considered of his Proposal, and approved of

it; for though I brought a good Sum of Money with me, yet that would soon be wasted if I should spend upon the main Stock, which I thought it was best to preserve till a time of Necessity, and to help me out at a dead Lift.

Hereupon I desired him to carry me to a Salesman's, where I bought a Suit and Cloak of black Serge; and at a Semstresses I furnish'd myself with starch'd Ruffs, and Cuffs; being thus equip'd I thought myself more gentile than *Narcissus*, for he never wore starch'd Ruffs; I now began to perceive that Money was the most powerful thing in the World, and that it supplied all the Defects of Nature; since if a Man be as Rustick, and unpolish'd as if he had convers'd only with the Beasts of the Field all his Life, yet by Virtue of this great Prince he becomes a Beau, and is counted wise, and every way an accomplish'd Person. He then brought me to be seen of my Master, who was an *Aragonian* Gentleman, tall, and in Years, and likewise short-sighted. He had married a young Lady about Sixteen, and came to Court in hope to get an Employment. Now to qualify himself the better, he took care to have a great number of Servants, and that they should all have

have good Liveries and seeing me well clad, and as severe in my Countenance as a Judge, this Lad, says he, promises well, whence art thou? a Native of *Madrid*, said I; thou art no Fool then added he, as if there were no Fools born in that City: He would have treated with me about my Sallery, but I not well understanding what to demand, answered, trouble not yourself, worthy Sir, about that, for I think myself sufficiently happy in having the Honour to be intituled to your Service. Observe here, my Ignorance was profitable to me, for the good Gentleman was so pleased with my Courtesy, that he took an Affection to me, and furnish'd me liberally with whatever I had Occasion for; whereas if I had made a positive Bargain with him I should have received only my bare Sallery as the rest did, who had not enough to buy themselves Shoes and Stockings. New Cloths, and this encouragement heightned my dull Spirits, and I began to admire myself, I went to kiss my Mistress's Hands, and found she liked me as well as her Husband. She ask'd me some Questions, which I briefly and timorously answered, declaring by my blushing the Innocency and Modesty of my Nature.

My Master being a Pretendient, or one that solicited for an Office at Court, was not much at home, which I did not like, for when he went abroad he would never suffer either Page or Lacquey to stay behind, thinking he should diminish his Nobility if we did not all follow him. From that time I began to Philosophize, and to consider what worldly Honour was and that the Ostentation of being attended with little slovenly Lacqueys and Pages was the only way to obtain Credit and Reputation among Grandees. We went sometimes all Day long following his Horse, which made me say to myself, whether dost thou go? Thow followest a Beast, and for certain thou wilt never come to good. At other times my Pretendient went out in his Coach, and though there was room enough for us Four behind it, yet he would never allow thereof, but obliged us to walk on foot bareheaded round the same, with our Green Liveries like Foot-Boys of the Pageant Giants which are carried in Procession; neither could I take my Rest in the Night, being employed the greatest part of it in carrying Letters and Messages to one Nobleman or other; a thing that my Humour could never comply with

with, to stand waiting at People's Doors, and kneeling to a Nobleman when I delivered him a Letter, according to the Custom of this Country, while he not regarding me, and turning his Head another way, I was compelled to continue in that Posture of Devotion till I was ready to curse him.

Such was my ill Fortune all the time I was reckoned to be wise, and it was certainly a Trick put upon me by the Enemy of Mankind, to persuade me to pretend to be so. For my Master having an Opinion of my Prudence sent me upon all Messages, so that I had not a Moments Rest; I therefore resolved to turn Fool again, and was then as fortunate as before; and I made myself appear so in the following manner. One Night it being very late, and I very weary, as I usually was, my Master had writ a Letter to send by the Post, but being called to Supper he said to me, seal this Letter, and carry it to the Post of *Aragon*, for it is of great Consequence to me: He went to Supper, and I staid reading the Letter, which seemed to me to be of Love; for after many tender Expressions, he sent to acquaint a Woman, that by all means she should come to see him, for by reason of

his urgent Occasions he could not go from home. In the Margin he put the Name of the Person to whom he writ, as he used to do, and told me I should add the Superſcription, ſuppoſing I would perceive it was for a Siſter of his by the Name which he had left written. Not far from our Houſe dwel'd a Lady of Pleaſure, who admitted of Viſits from any Gentleman, and ſubſiſted upon what was given her by thoſe who had a Paſſion for her; to be plain, ſhe was an impudent Hackney Jade, and an *Aragonian*, being nick-nam'd, the Poſt of Aragon: I imagining it was a Love-Letter, and remembering I was to carry it to the Poſt of *Aragon*, did not doubt but it was for her, whereupon I ſeal'd it, but put no Superſcription thereon, as judging it very indecent, ſince it was an amorous Billet. I carried it to the Poſt, who ask'd me from whence it came, I told her from a Gentleman of *Aragon*, who had ſet his Name to it. She opened it with a Smile, and read thus:

‘ *My Dear, to make me moſt happy,*
 ‘ *there needs no more than that thou wilt*
 ‘ *procure it by coming to ſee me; the*
 ‘ *way is ſhort, and I could heartily wiſh*
 ‘ *that I were free from Buſineſs, for then*

‘ I

‘ *I assure thee I would visit thee every day,*
‘ *there shall be nothing wanting to oblige*
‘ *thee, when I shall have the Pleasure to*
‘ *see thee at my House; which I hope will*
‘ *not be long, and shall then give thee an*
‘ *account of Affairs of great Moment.*
‘ *Heaven preserve thee, &c.*

She was extremely pleased with the kind Expressions in this Paper, and being very willing to comply with my Request, ask'd me if this might be a proper Opportunity; I told her yes, because my Master had a desire she should come at that Instant. She made me sit down, and calling her Servant, who was a Tawny Moor, went into her Apartment, and rigg'd herself with a pair of Embroider'd Stays, and a Mantle with Gold Flowers, and taking her Maid by the Hand, with her Face veil'd, only one Eye being visible, according to the Custom of this Country, we came to my Master's House. I went in first to give him notice, and finding him at Supper with his Wife, I whisper'd him in the Ear, saying, Sir, the Post of *Aragon* is come; what dost thou mean, cried he; why Sir said I, I have brought her hither, a handsom brisk Girl: The Old Gentleman was ignorant that there was so pleasing a Post,

Post, for he thought all Posts had wore Beards, and understood me not, asking an Hundred Questions; neither could I understand him; at length, come Sir, said I, the Lady expects you in the Drawing Room, and 'tis ungentleel to make her wait so long; she was less time in dressing herself, than you are a rising from your Chair.

The Old Spark gets up, crossing himself, and coming down into the Room, finds the Post there, a likely young Girl, with sparkling Eyes, and a smiling Countenance, who making a Curtsey and holding the Letter in her Hand, he was surpriz'd at the Novelty. Sir, said she, there was no Occasion for you to send such a kind Paper to me, whom you may always command, and who thinks it an Honour to comply with your Inclinations; the least Message in the World would have obliged me to come and offer my Service to you; the Old Letcher began now to apprehend the Mistake; however he thought it a lucky Error, and rejoiced at his good Fortune in this Adventure.

My Mistress, who had observed the Secrety wherewith I delivered my Errand at Table, and that her Husband had
risen

rifen with some Concern upon hearing it, was fomewhat Suspicious, and sent her Waiting Woman to pry into the Affair; who returning related both what ſhe did, and what ſhe did not ſee: My Maſter, ſays ſhe, has got a Miſtreſs, and *Pedro* is his Pimp; ſhe is the braveſt Wench in the whole Town; upon my Modeſty he is not ſo liberal to you as he is to her; what a curious Golden Mantle, and a Silver Waſtcoat has this old Dotard preſented her with! the decrepid Wretch ſeems young again: This you deſerve for your Squeamiſhneſs; but I hope you will be more complaiſant hereafter, ſince ſo many fine Gentlemen ſigh for you; poſſibly you will ſay, ah, but I ſhall wrong my Huſband; alas, I love him dearly; Ill-Luck light on him, whoſe Years one would think ſhould make him renounce ſuch Game; if it be ſo with him, what will a young beardleſs Huſband be? Ah, theſe are unhappy Days for young Women to marry in; upon my Honesty, Madam, I ſaw him ſo cold and indifferent with you, that I imagined he had renounced his Love-Toys with his Age, but a Murrain on him, I find he has ſtill a Colts Tooth in his Head for a wanton Miſs. The poor Young Lady was much diſturb'd

at what she heard, and thinking it would be a great Dishonour if it were known, that a Gouty Old Fellow should prefer a common Strumpet before her, she disguised the Matter with the greatest Discretion imaginable, pretending she neither understood nor believed one Word of what her Servant had told her.

Away went the Post, and my Master calling me, reproved me severely; but I satisfied him that it was my Ignorance, and he having had a pleasing Entertainment, passed it by, but resolved for the future to look upon me as a Fool, and so took away from me all the Papers and other Business, wherein he had formerly employed me, doubting that I would commit some other Blunder of more fatal Consequence. Thus was I eased of a great deal of Trouble only for one Folly; what should I have been if I had committed many! But Fortune considered I was a Fool, and was therefore more kind and Favourable to me, and treated me as a Friend.

My Mistress was mollified and diverted by the Addresses and Services of a Nobleman, who courted her with much Warmth and Tenderneſs; permitted his Visits ſometimes, and received his Preſents

sents; and judging me to be secret, wise, and a dissembler, she desired her Husband that I might be employ'd in her Service, to wait upon her and carry Messages, and to take her own Page in my Stead: My Master was pleas'd with the Motion, and the Bargain was struck instantly, as one that swops away a Horse.

C H A P. V.

He prosecutes his History, and relates what happened to him at Court, being a Page.

IT is a general Custom over all Spain, for the Nobility and Gentry to retain in their Houses certain Women (who are usually ancient Widows, and sometimes Wives) to be Governesses of their Houses, who wear a particular Habit, and are call'd *Duenna's*; some Ladies keeping Two, some Four, others Six of them, according to their Quality: and my Mistress had one of them.

A few days after I had been in the Service of my new Commandress, I was call'd aside by the *Duenna* into a private Room, who peeping into every Corner
to

to see if any body heard us, I certainly concluded that she would give me a Schooling for Pimping for my Master. The Reverend Matron with her Rosary of Beads about her Neck, a little Book of Devotion in her Hand, and a pair of large Spectacles on her Nose, took me by the Arm, saying, *‘ Pedro, though honest
‘ Servants have no need to be admonish’d
‘ of being trusty, because their Nature
‘ prompts them to be so; yet they com-
‘ mit many Errors by not thoroughly un-
‘ derstanding their Business; now, my
‘ Son, I will give you some few necessary
‘ Instructions: You are come into a very
‘ Honourable and Creditable House, and
‘ have till now serv’d your Master only;
‘ but remember that the Neglects which
‘ you may be guilty of toward them,
‘ are not of so great consequence as
‘ those which are committed toward La-
‘ dies; you serve my Mistress, observe
‘ what I say, you must comply with all
‘ her Desires, and must never dispute
‘ her command, but obey them, whether
‘ they seem just or unjust, for such Ob-
‘ jections are more proper for Church-
‘ men than for Pages: If you would act
‘ discreetly, and promote your own Ad-
‘ vantage, you must be all Obedience;
‘ obey*

obey Friend and be silent if you hope
to be obey'd another day; you see ma-
ny in the Streets who live handsomly,
and have Servants of their own, by be-
ing complaisant in their service to o-
thers. My Mistrefs knows you to be
loyal and secret, because you have been
so to your Master, and though it was to
her Prejudice, yet she esteems you for
those Virtues, hoping that being now
her Page, you will be as faithful to her;
you must know then, that a Nobleman
in this Court, who is both powerful
and liberal, makes his Addresses to my
Lady: She is a Woman but very ill
match'd, and thinks she ought to be
grateful to the Love of this Prince (tel-
ling me his Title) you are to carry him
this Letter, which is an Answer to one
of his, and the Reward he will give
you will make you sensible how pro-
fitable it is to be secret; and because I
would not always be telling you the
same thing, be sure to remember that
all the Messages on which you shall be
sent to my Ladies Cousin, you must
carry to the Count; and this is enough
for your first Lesson; I gave her Thanks
for her prudent Documents, and carried
the Billet, according to Order.

I now

I now perceiv'd how prejudicial my Folly was, since I imagined my Mistress by my Intreague with her Husband became Jealous, and resolv'd on Revenge: I likewise observ'd that married Women generally learn of their Husbands to be unfaithful; for as *Pliny* saith, they esteem it an Honour to imitate them: My married Friend, if thou goest abroad a Nights to debauch other Mens Wives, never question but thy own will requite thee, when she has an Opportunity. What a pleasant Life did I lead in my new Office? Those that take up this Employment are allur'd by the Prosperity of Pages; for to speak plainly, he that is not a Pimp is no Page, but a meer Pretender to it. The Page that you see well cloth'd, brisk, and full of Money, knows his Cue: Those poor Tatterdemalions that do not, are cloth'd in Sackcloth. How many Plays was I carried to? What Sports did I see? What splendid Feast did I partake of? How much Gold had I given me? What Acquaintance did I gain? And from whence came all this good Fortune to me, but only for having the Reputation of being a Fool? My Lady thought I understood nothing but what I saw, and though she trusted

trusted me in all, yet did not seem to confide in me at all.

At this time there happened to me a very pleasant Accident: the Gentleman of the Horse had a Quarrel with a pretty Lady. He had treated her like a respectful Lover, and made her Hands sparkle with Diamonds, which shewed his resplendent Folly: Coming to visit her one time before his usual Hour, he catch'd her napping with a Nobleman; some Nights after, he surpriz'd her with another Gentleman; at which being enrag'd with Jealousy, he resolv'd to be reveng'd on her. To this end he brought me my Master's richest Suit of Cloths, desiring that I would put them on; and that being attended with the rest of my Fellow-Pages, I should personate the Nobleman, and make her a Visit; and should rifle her genteelly of all her Jewels; for she was a Woman, who not only trusted her Jewels to Gentlemen, but her Person also, which she freely surrendered to their Use. Now I appearing so grand, we thought she might not be willing that the first Visit should be made by Night; but rather in the day, which would be more for her Honour; accordingly my Master being then Three Leagues from *Madrid*, at that
Sister's

Sister's House, which he writ to when I call'd the Post of *Aragon*: I was put in to his Coach; and the last Charge the Gentleman of the Horse gave me was, that I should take care to feign myself an Idiot and a Fool, because this vain Woman would have the less Suspicion of me.

In this Equipage we came to her House, I being very gallant, and sitting in state in the Coach with the Pages round it; I sent one of them to acquaint her that the Count of *Rapina* was there; the Door was soon open'd, we entred, and I making my Honours by measure, sate down without speaking a Word, surveying the Lady from Top to Toe: Do not think this was the Action of one in Love; no, no, I had another Project, as you will soon hear; in viewing her I began to reflect what Pity it was, that so fine a Face and Shape should be guilty of such wicked Practices; and that such a beautiful Head should be so void of Sense: What Sottishness is it then for Men to run mad after Beauty; I always thought that they esteem'd handsome Faces, because they imagined that the Mind was agreeable to the Body; and that Nature was so kind as to imprint Persons Dispositions upon their Countenances; that the Frowner

like

like me, seems to say with his Face, take heed of me for I am discontented and ill-condition'd: The chearful Look, that he's all Pleasantness and Goodness: The swarthy and tawny Complexion'd, that he has a Course Soul: The high colour'd and fiery fac'd, that he is cholerick and desperate; but woful Experience shews us it is far otherwise: For this Woman, tho' transcendently handsome, was yet of a furious and treacherous Temper; false to the Gentleman of the Horse, and mad with me, as by the Sequel appears.

She was much concern'd to see me so much surpriz'd at my coming in; I cried, it is she without doubt, tho' she is injur'd in her Picture; she ask'd me what I said; I told her that lying idle at my Seat of *Rapina*, I had sent for the Pictures of the most beautiful Ladies of the Court; and that among them all I was so enamour'd with hers, that I left my Lady Mother, and my good Gammons of Bacon, only to see the Original, which now appeared to me much handsomer than the Picture; she laugh'd at the Gammons of Bacon and my Lady Mother, and concluded I was a Fool, accounting herself already Lady of all *Rapina*, and treated me with the most obliging Expressions of Love and

and Kindness; but this had no Influence upon me; for though I have confess'd I was a Fool, yet I was not a Brute; for I assure you, upon the Faith of an ill condition'd Man, her Flatteries did no way allure me, I rather nauseated them, and therefore made my Visit the Shorter; I acquainted her that I was extreamly pleas'd with some Diamond Rings which she had on her Fingers, and plucking them off, said I, *' By the Life of my Mother
' I will have as many more made for you,
' with small Diamonds like Stars, of the
' same Fashion; how admirably they look,
' and how curiously are they compos'd?
' Come, come away, I'll go instantly
' to the Jewellers to bespeak them.* I then took my leave, and she waited upon me to the Door, with many Acknowledgments of my Generosity, professing herself to be my Servant at command. I carried the Rings to the Gentleman of the Horse, who staid hard by, and taking him into the Coach, we shar'd the Booty, and so ended my Courtship. I then perceiv'd that they, who pretend to have an Affection to these kind of Women, do it not so much out of Love, but because it is the Fashion to have a Mistress. I blamed his ill Conduct, and added,

ded, that my Love succeeded better with me, for I was smitten with a Damsel where there was no danger of these Intreagues; if she allows me any Favour it is purely Kindness, said I, for Covetousness hath not taught her to dissemble; if she seems to disoblige me it is not out of any Contempt, but only to keep that Decorum, which is required in modest Women, and I have Hopes she has a secret Inclination for me, though she may seem to conceal it; but I have no Occasion to entertain any infamous Jealousies, judging myself secure in her Merits and Virtue, which will not be easily vanquish'd.

While Doctor *Cenudo* very much pleased himself at the Recital of this his amorous Enterprize, which he did at the earnest Desire of his Friend call'd *Don Felix*, and was expecting when he'd commend it, he observ'd he was fallen asleep. The Historian displeas'd at this Neglect, and knowing that he was sometimes troubled with a Pain at his Heart, which was wont to make him faint away, pretending he did not think him asleep, he took a Bason of Water, saying, *Bless the Man*, and threw it all in his Face. *Don Felix* awakened, and believing the Doctor judg'd him
to

to be in a Swoond though it a great Happiness to have found this Excuse for his Unmannerliness in sleeping in the midst of a diverting Story; and finding himself wet, and the whole Fabrick of his Ruff disorder'd, he return'd him thanks, and saying he found himself not well, he went away, promising to return the day following. He comply'd with his Word, being fully resolv'd not to sleep again as he had done, and the Doctor went on with his History.

The manner of my *Platonick* Love, which I had related, and the Pleasure I seem'd to take therein, confirm'd my Friends and Acquaintance in their Opinion, that I was a Fool; Men being so fond of their own Sentiments, that they judge of all Things ridiculous which they do not approve of; since none pretended to love in the same Method that I did. The Master of the Horse laugh'd at what he ought to have admir'd; I cried up the Caution and Wariness which my Mistress us'd in being seen by me, and prais'd her disdainful Carriage toward me, as if they had been favours, and proper for a Woman of her Quality and Deportment. The Gentleman of the Horse being a merry Fellow, ' *Well Signior Cenudo, said*

' *be, I'll lay you a Wager, that if you make*
 ' *a Visit to this scornful Lady in the same*
 ' *Gallantry you are now in, and make her*
 ' *believe that you have great Riches sent*
 ' *you by your Father from the Indies (since*
 ' *she knows he is there in a profitable Em-*
 ' *ployment) she will be complaisant and plia-*
 ' *ble, will flatter you, and correspond wit^h*
 ' *whatever you desire. I am unwilling, said*
 I, to lay Wagers upon Impossibilities,
 however let us go, and make Trial of it;
 with all my Heart cried he, as soon as
 you please: We went then together to
 her House, and sending a Page before to
 give her Notice I was there, the Joy of
 mine Eyes peep'd thro' a low Grate, and
 saw me, but did not know me, because
 I was so fine; but begging leave to kiss
 her Hands she knew the Voice, and
 coming forth much surpris'd, she inform-
 ed herself by the Page of the Novelty;
 he, that had been fully instructed in his
 lying Lesson, represented me to be very
 Rich, and that my Father was President
 of the *Canaries*: Out comes the Mother
 and Daughter to receive us with a World
 of Compliments; they were astonish'd at
 my Grandeur, not knowing whether
 they should stile me Honourable or Wor-
 shipful;

shipful; at length my Damsel determin'd to call me her Dear; we were seated first in high Chairs, but she desired me to sit down on a Cushion nigh her, with much Tenderness, and many Endearments, that she might have the stricter View of me; she took me by the Hands, and admir'd the Diamond Rings on my Fingers; but my Folly assisted me so far, that I did not say they were at her Service, for it is better for a Man to be counted a Fool than covetous, and so I had the good Fortune to escape the latter, by being thought the former: She with an engaging Smile put my Hand into hers, not to tell me my good Fortune, but thinking she had me sure.

Ever and anon the Gentleman of the Horse, whom I call'd Cozen, look'd at me, which brought fresh Blushes into my Cheeks to think what a Tryal I had made; I ask'd for Water, they brought me some, with Variety of Sweet-meats, but they were all sour to me, yea I was so ashamed, that I did not take what she brought me in her Hands, which the Baggage thought proceeded from my Sottishness and want of Wit. We then took our leaves, having been handsomely treated, she earnestly desiring me to see her again

again that Night, and that I would not be a Stranger at her House, nor with my new Fortune forget my former Love to her; with these and such like Follies she accompanied us to the Door (a new Favour in Ladies) the Mother relating to my Cozen, whilst we were talking by ourselves, the great Quality and Fortune of her Daughter, with other Matters which favour'd of Matrimony.

When we come home my Cozen had no Mercy on me, but persecuted me with his Scoffs and Reproaches; and I was so much asham'd and astonish'd to find all Women were alike, that I renounc'd my Love, plainly discovering that her former Disdain proceeded from my Poverty, and her present Favours not out of any Respect to my Person, but only to my Fortune, and could not enough abhor my Folly for pleasing myself with her Scorns, and in glorying that I was disdain'd by her. However I visited them sometimes by Night, in my embroider'd Cloak, my Hat edg'd with Gold Lace, and my gilded Sword, which all belong'd to the Gentleman of the Horse, who encourag'd me to prosecute my Revenge. I enjoy'd all civil Freedoms, and received many Favours of them for a great while;

not without reflecting upon the Folly of Women, who only having an Opinion that I was Rich, though I had never given them any thing, but received many Kindnesses from them, yet valued me so highly, and never knew how to make enough of me.

By this time the cunning Gipsy thought I was over head and ears in Love; for they could not imagine that such a Fool as I could lye and dissemble with so much Confidence; now though I perceived she had some kind of Affection for me, yet I imagin'd all her Pretensions were only to the false Riches which she supposed were brought me from the *Indies*; and said within myself, how can these Women be so vain to love that which is not, nor cannot be, and despise the Person of a Man which hath Being and Value; I began to contemn her, and spoke to her without those ridiculous Commendations I formerly used. I remembered she was Flesh and Blood as well as myself, Familiarity having made me consider her more nearly. I learn'd how necessary it is for a Man to be a Fool to enjoy his Love; for whilst I observ'd that Respect which discreet Men use in that Affair I got nothing but Wind and Smoak; but after
became

became a real Fool in the Opinion of the World, I obtain'd what I would. Men are the Occasion of making Women proud and disdainful, who believe themselves to deserve all the Flatteries we bestow upon them, and when they have wash'd, painted, and put on a new Face, and see their own handy Work in a Looking Glass, they believe they brought the white and red out of their Mother's Bellies, or else they would never overvalue themselves as they do: The best way is to despise them, for he that adores them, takes up Arms against himself.

Several Nights afterward when I made my Visits I found divers other Gallants in her Company, but never shewed any Signs of Jealousy, which made her more ardently wish that I were her Husband; Nay my Covetousness too did me Service; for listning once, I heard her Mother say, *' Daughter, this Man is for own turn; he is one that knows how to keep his Estate, and not spend it among lewd Women; for tho' he loves thee so tenderly, he hath never shewn any Sign of Prodigality. He's none of those buffing Sparks, who, with a little Scholarship, and a few stale Compliments and Flatteries, which they have*
C 3 *learn'd*

'learn'd of others, like Parrots, without
 'knowing what they say, think they are as
 'wise as Solomon, and at the same time
 'suffer themselves to be spung'd upon, and
 'bubbl'd by any indigent Fellow, that pre-
 'tends to admire 'em.

I having been so often near the Fire,
 began to grow warm, having a small
 Passion for my Mistress, and began to
 speak of Marriage; I had no sooner ut-
 tered that Word, but she thought she had
 Possession of all the Wealth of *India*, and
 presented me with Pearls, Diamonds,
 Chrystals, yea Silver, and Gold, and
 thought them all too little for me. My
 Love hereupon began to cool, and such
 a number of foolish Toys glutted me,
 though another would have eaten his
 Fingers ends that he might have received
 so many Favours; but divers Men have
 different Palates, and mine was so squeamish,
 that I utterly abandon'd all my
 Pretensions to her, and never visited her
 more.

On the one side of *Madrid* is a pleasant
 Walk call'd the *Prado*, whether the
 Gallants and Ladies resort every Evening
 in the Summer time to take the Air; the
 Place being adorn'd with many curious
 Fountains and Rows of high Trees, and

is water'd at three or four a Clock in the Afternoon by Porters at the Charge of the City. My Master intending to go thither one Sunday in more State than usual, because the King was to come down that day to the Dukes Garden; he therefore commanded all the Servants of his House, as well his Lady's as his own, to wait upon him; I went among the rest, and coming to the Convent of the *Minorites*, I saw two Women veil'd with weav'd Smoak and Clouds of Silk, so thin were their Hoods and Mantles. They look'd earnestly upon me, and I, who could never shake off my amorous Humour, though I had met with so many Misadventures in Pursuit of it, was mightily pleas'd, supposing they were taken with my Person or Carriage; I began to walk more stately, and let my Master's Coach pass forward with the Pages, endeavouring not to appear to be one of them; but that was impossible, because I carried a Badge of Slavery upon my Back, which was surely an Invention of *Lucifer*, since my Livery proclaim'd to all the World that I was not my own Man but in Servitude to another: I curst my Destiny that made me so much a Favourite with the Ladies, and had not

given me wherewithal to answer their Expectations.

I drew nearer to them, looking very amorously, and saying, Ladies the Prize is yours, you have already conquer'd your obsequious Adorer; and so was running on with such Courtship, as is not proper to be used to civil Women, but to those that are loose and wanton; they held their Peace, and view'd me more intently, one whispering the other and sighing; as I live; said I to myself, the Girl sighs for me; let not the Poets then be censur'd for making a Lady in their Plays fall in love with a handsome Gentleman at first sight, since a young Lady stands sighing for me, a poor Page in a Livery, who have for Four Years past trotted up and down the Streets of *Madrid*. I thinking Shame detain'd them from answering I began to speak more lewdly, shewing what an excellent Faculty I had therein. They still continued silent, for which I the more admir'd them, judging it a wonderful thing that Two Women should be able to hold their Tongues so long. At length the most airy of them putting out her Hand from under her Veil, which might have affront-

ed the Snow for Whiteness, made a Sign with it, that I should follow them to the most unfrequented part of the *Prado*; I did so with the greatest Joy imaginable, and being come to the privatest part of the Grove they stood still, and she with the talking Hands made a Sign I should come nearer, so that my Face was almost join'd to hers; but at that Instant she catching me fast by thy Ear with one Hand began to maul and cuff me furiously, whilst her Companion arm'd with her Choppins, or wooden Clogs, which she pull'd from her Feet, shour'd such a Storm of Blows upon my Head, and my whole Body that they left me for dead. In the Skirmish she that attack'd me with the greatest Vigour discovered her Face, so that I knew her to be the liberal Damfel whom I had mump'd of her Jewels; who finding what a sham I had put upon her, was resolv'd to be even with me; they then gave many Stabs to my Honour, and dignified me with more Names and Titles than are given to the Eastern Emperors, calling me Rogue, Rascal, Villain, Thief, Pimp, Cheat, Impostor, and what not; I would have made my Defence, but it was impossible, for they rail'd so violently that they would not suffer me

to utter a Word. The Storm being a little allayed, I fell on my Knees, desiring them to excuse the Errors of Love, and us'd some other Arguments, but my Humility would not save me, for they returned to drub me afresh, and at last went away wearied, but not satisfied, threatening that I should not come off so cheap, for they would have my Blood. This Combate with the Choppins utterly untwisted my Love, and I abhor'd the Place too, where I had suffer'd such Persecution.

It happened a few Days after, that my Master going into the Country, as he often did, the *Duenna*, or Governess, call'd me aside, and gave me a Billet to deliver to my Mistresses Gallant, charging me to be very watchful that Night, because the Count or Nobleman was to come to wait on her, and he was to open the Door to him; I promised to do it, carried the Note to the Count, and received for my Reward a Chain of Gold, he binding me with such glorious Fetters to promote his Interest; for though I naturally lov'd Freedom, and was ill humor'd, abhorring to be concern'd in any base Practices; yet this shining Metal, which being Son of the Sun, seems to have

have an universal Empire over all Parts of the Globe, softned by rough Temper, and subjected me to the meanest Drudgery.

Night came on, and my Folly secured me from the great Danger wherein I certainly was; for I had a foolish Inclination to make my Lady sensible that I was acquainted with her Intreagues, and that her Honour was in my Hands, thinking I should thereby gain her Favour, and that she would esteem and treat me with more Kindness, since her Reputation was so highly concern'd in it. And surely though the Pleasures of Love are so enchanting, yet there must needs be some Sting in it, when Persons consider that they must be Slaves to a malicious Page, or a deceitful Governess, for concealing their Crimes; I came then with much Joy and told her, how extreamly pleas'd the Count was to find himself so near the Port of his Happiness. This was News to her, nor could she apprehend the meaning of it, till after I had informed her, who gave me the Note I mentioned to carry to the Count; she began at length to consider that this was an Imposture of the *Duenna's*, who had made a Bargain with the Nobleman to sell her Honour
that

that Night, being greedy of the Rich Presents which the amorous Count presented her with: She inquired whether I had carried any Messages to that Nobleman before; a great number Madam, said I, and all by Order of the *Duenna*: She was much surpris'd at what I said, crossing and blessing herself, and then added, so, so, are you he then, that counterfeited yourself a Fool, and she the demure Hypocrite; well, well, upon my Honour I'll acquaint your Master with your Tricks, who knows how to chastize you according to your Merits; after which dreadful Words she retired in a great Rage to her Bed-chamber.

I was astonish'd to find what a sham the *Duenna* had put upon me, since only a *Duenna* was able to fool a Man so; for they are always treacherous and unfaithful, no People being more deceitful than they, and which vexes me most, all is done with a Pretence of Sanctity and Devotion; they study only to betray the Daughter whom the Mother hath left to their Governance; or the new married Wife whom her Husband hath left under their Care; how brittle is the Honour of Women, who though never so modest, never so well married, yet are debauch'd
by

by the Avarice of a *Duenna*, who judging all her Sex to be as vicious as herself had been, so long as she was able, imagine they oblige them, when they are doing them the greatest Injury, and promise lewd Assignations in their Names. I was resolv'd to revenge myself upon the *Duenna*, for it being late, and she gone to Bed betimes, designing to rise at Two in the Morning, which was the Hour she had appointed the Court to come, I put on a Farendine Cloak, entered her Chamber, and came to her bed-side where she lay alone; then rustling my Silks, and speaking with an hoarse Voice, as if I had been the Count, I took my buckled Girdle, and with hard Words, and harder Stripes, chastized her to my Content, alledging, she had abused me in pretending to bring me into her Lady's Bed who was so innocent and chaste a Person.

I then went down to the Street-door, with Intent to send back the Nobleman, but found that the Keys of that and several others Doors between that and her own Chamber were carried to her, to prevent her being betrayed by my Folly, or the Impiety of her *Duenna*. I went to Bed since I perceived the Intreague was prevented, but could not sleep a Wink
for

for Vexation at the Accident, and to consider how uncertain the Judgments of Men are, and how little Credit we ought to give to our own Eyes though the most faithful of our Senses: I had seen her receive the Presents the Count sent her, but my Mistress knew not they were his; and thought she was obliged to the Kindness of a Lady of her Acquaintance for them, by whose Hand they came to her. So unfortunate is Beauty, that even a Friend becomes a Traitor sometimes, for fordid Gain. Let not the unhandsome then complain of their ill Fortune; but consider that Beauty is subject to many Infelicities and Troubles, and with a few vain Flatteries has a Mixture of many real Sorrows.

C H A P. V.

*He goes to a new Master, and passes
the Examination of a Crew of Sham-
Doctors at Salamanca.*

I Rise next Morning as soon as 'twas Day,
being fearful I should be soundly
maul'd by my Master, when his Wife had
acquainted him with the Affair, and went
to the Count, who was just going to Bed,
complaining of his Head; I pretended
myself extremely troubled, and desiring
that his Servants might retire, spoke
thus to him; ' I think it much unbecom-
' ing a Person of your Lordship's Figure,
' to treat a Lady of Quality with so
' much Neglect; I come Sir to acquaint
' you from my Mistress, that you had
' free Entrance into her House, having
' already gain'd the same in her Breast,
' yet you did not appear at the Hour ap-
' pointed; your Lordship ought to have
' abandon'd Play for one Night at least,
' how fond soever you are of it, and not
' to have put such an Affront upon a
' Person who has so great an Esteem for
' you, and whose Slighting of her, for
' ought

‘ ought I know, may cost her her Life. By the Order of Knighthood, with which I am honoured, replied the Count, I staid at her Door with the utmost Anxiety from Two a Clock in the Night till this Morning; then your Lordship had ill Luck, said I, for I stood waiting for you at the Door till One a Clock, and hearing a Horse stop, thinking it had been your Lordship, I opened the Door, and said to myself, it is the Count, your Lordship may come in, for my Lady expects you with the utmost Impatience.

Scarce had I spoke, when the Gentleman (who was my Master) alighting, took me by the Arm, and thrust me into the House, commanding a Servant that came with him to lock the Door, and carrying me into his Chamber, after he had severely disciplin’d me with an Horse-whip, Sirrah, said he, you Rascal, Pimp, Villain, tell me truly what Count it was that you expected; indeed Sir, said I, my Lady knows nothing of the Matter; it was only a Plot contrived between me and the *Duenna*, to let a Nobleman into the House (telling him a feigned Name) who having corrupted our Fidelity by Money and Gifts, we promised to let him in this Night; hereupon he left me, making

making me swear to keep the matter secret, and went to chastise the *Duenna*, and know from her the whole Business. Your Lordship therefore is in much Danger if she should discover, your true Name and Quality, as I doubt she will.

Thou say'st true, said the Count, for 'tis very perilous to trust a Man's Secrets with a Woman, and I doubt I shall be ruin'd; for her Husband, being a Noble *Aragonian*, will endeavour to find me out and kill me, and having Justice on his side I am the more apprehensive of his Resentment; so that I think it adviseable to absent myself from the City for some time. In a few Days he put this Resolution in Execution, under Pretence of going to visit his Tenants, and look after his Estate; leaving me with a Brother of his, an Ecclesiastick, who was going shortly to *Salamanca*, on whom I waited in quality of a Page, wherein by meer Folly I made my Discretion appear; so that my being a Fool was not only beneficial to me, but my feigning myself to be one likewise; for who could be so foolish to imagine, that the Count would come on Horseback upon such an Enterprize wherein Gallants use the greatest Caution,

Caution, and Privacy possible; however this invented Story of mine procur'd me a new Master much to my Advantage: This Gentleman was the second of the Count's Family, and had about Sixteen Thousand Ducats of Ecclesiastical Revenues coming in yearly; yet had more Folly than Money: I will not stop here, and complain of the Malice of Fortune for bestowing on a mere Blockhead and Coxcomb Sixteen Thousand Ducats a Year in Benefices, and it may be the Reputation of being wiser than I; for he had ready Money to oblige, and though he spoke never so foolishly, yet his Words were applauded as Oracles: Oh Riches! who would think, that being so uncertain, you should purchase to your Owners such Glory and Honour, both while they are alive, and also to future Ages: But let the Vulgar complain of their bad Fortune, Destiny, their ill Stars, or what they will, I, who am satisfied that all the good or ill we receive proceeds from the superior Powers, cannot but acknowledge that all things are distributed to Mortals according to Reason and Justice; and if others are not of the same Opinion, let them blame their own Want of Penetration, or their Pride, to question the disposal

posal of all Matters here below. If a blind Man should complain of the Darkness of the Sun, would you not say, the Fault was in his Eyes? Why then should we accuse the Sum of Injustice, of Neglect and Partiality, since we ourselves only are faulty.

May we not think, that my Master, who was born a Fool, had more need of those Sixteen Thousand Ducats than I, since otherwise he would have received two grievous Detriments, and might be thought to have been unjustly dealt with; One, in coming into the World naked, and without being furnish'd with the Principal Goods, which are Wisdom and Understanding; and another, that he would have been exposed to Want and Misery without those Succours, which supply human Necessities; so that there appear'd great Equity in the Business, that since he had not Wit to provide for himself, he should have Wealth to answer that great Defect. But I, who am a Free-Thinker, and weigh every thing in the Ballance of Reason, though by the Injury of ill Tongues, and Envy of bad People I am reckoned a Fool, do not think myself altogether an Idiot, but am endued with such Discretion, that I value
not

not vain Riches, as judging them more proper for those that have less Wit than myself.

The Count had given his Brother my new Master such a Character of my Modesty, Carefulness and Secresy, that I was very easy in his Service, and in Confidence of my good Qualities he employed me only in matters of his Pleasure; he had also acquainted him with my Innocence and Simplicity, and my supercilious Frown confirm'd him therein; so that the first Frolick he had, after we arriv'd at *Salamanca*, was to make himself and his Friends merry with my good Humour, as he call'd it, which he added, was not without pleasant Conceits; they design'd to discover their Knowledge by my Ignorance; but I made it appear that I knew many things, of which they were ignorant.

One Night my Master having invited several of his Friends to an Entertainment; while they were making merry, about a Dozen of their Servants got into a Room by themselves, furnish'd with Hoods, Caps, and Gowns, like a Conclave of Doctors, with Trumpets, Kettle-Drums, and other Musick; they then sent a Message to my Master on whom I
was

was waiting, acquainting him, That in the University of *Salamanca*, was an ancient laudable Custom, that they should make a Tryal of the Wit and Ability of every Person who came to learn any Faculty there, the Neglect whereof had occasioned many Inconveniencies; that they dispensed with his Worship, in regard of the good Opinion they had entertain'd in his Favour; but that they much suspected the Deficiency of his Servant *Pedro Cenudo*, and desir'd leave that he might come to Examination: With all my Heart, replyed my Master, and thanking these Sham-Doctors that they would honour his Lodging, he receiv'd them in a spacious Room, where all things were prepar'd for the Ceremony.

The Doctors sate down in the Order that they thought proper as to Superiority; and after one of them had inform'd the Cabal at large of the Occasion of their Assembling, there came two Mace-Bearers and set me in the middle of the Hall, upon a little Bench with a lighted Flambeau on both sides of me, that all might be Witnesses of my Ignorance.

Several of the Doctors questioned me about divers Matters, which with my
Answers

Answers I took in Writing to display their Wisdom and my Weakness; these I have set down Dialogue wise, where *D.* shall stand for Doctor, and *F.* for Fool; whereby you may discover how little Credit is to be given to the Opinion of Doctors, who often count them Fools that are wiser than themselves.

The F O O L's EXAMINATION.

D. Which is the most discreet Folly?

F. Love.

D. Which is the most entertaining Folly?

F. Play.

D. Which is the most excusable Folly?

F. Ambition.

D. How may a Fool cease to be so?

F. By knowing that he is so.

D. How shall he know that he is so?

F. By discoursing with wise Men.

D. What hath a Man need of to become Wise?

F. To be modest and teachable.

D. Why are there so many Fools in the World?

F. Because no Body thinks himself one.

D. To what Science are you inclin'd?

F. To all.

D. Are you able to learn all?

F. Do

F. Do you know how to teach me all?

D. *They are all taught in this University.*

F. If they are all taught, why may not they all be learnt?

D. *The Life of Man is too short for such an Undertaking.*

F. Why should we not then endeavour to lengthen it?

D. *How can that be?*

F. By refraining from the Pleasures of Love, the bewitchings of Play, the follies of Ambition, Voluptuousness in eating or drinking, and the Madness of Covetousness; these are the Methods by which our Life would be lengthened, out are much shorter, because we do not live by the Rules of Nature.

D. *Few Men are capable of more than one Science; and therefore the University hath ordained that we should make Tryal of every ones Capacity, and Instruct him in that Science to which he shall answer most happily.*

F. This is Madness, to teach me what I understand already: Instruct me rather in what I do not know. However, in regard we must conform to the humour of the World, I am contented to be farther examin'd upon this Subject. Let's hear your Questions?

D. *Will you Learn the Law?*

F. I

F. I would gladly be a Lawyer if there was any thing to be Learnt?

D. *I don't understand you.*

F. The Law is nothing else but Reason, which guides us to follow only what is Just; and the Plow Man governs himself by Reason, unless some Passion or Affection hinder him: So I find there is too much Law written and learnt, which obscures both Reason and Justice: so that when a poor Country Man goes to advise with a Lawyer, and declares to him plainly the Reason and Equity of his Cause, the Lawyer only perplexes the Cause, and confounds the plain matter of Fact with his Quirks and Glosses, out of some old worm eaten Law Book.

D. *But if you were a Judge, there is no such Subtilty in that Office.*

F. Why? Do not I observe every day, that the Opinion of one Judge is contradicted by another, which proceeds either from Passion, or Ignorance; and I am not for an Employment in which there are such Extrems.

D. *Would you be a Physician?*

F. I am not very fond of feeling the Pulses of the Female Sex, and yet I could willingly be one of that Faculty, were it not for casting Waters, and inquiring how
many

many stools the Patients have had, which agrees not at all with my Stomach.

D. I perceive then that you are inclin'd to be a natural Philosopher.

F. Indeed there is no Science that agrees with my Constitution like this; but I would not go to the Universities to learn it, because I find the ancient Philosophers contradicting one another in their several Ages: and in this Age, there is so much Clamour and Dispute about their meaning, and beating your Brains all your Lifetime with Sophistical Arguments, because such a Philosopher said it: who were he now alive, and observ'd what a noise you make about it, would tell you doubtless, he never intended there should be such a do concerning a matter of so little consequence.

D. Possibly you may have a Fancy for Poetry.

F. As for Poetry, I have known it many Years.

D. Do you understand it? I find but few in the World that have a true Notion of it.

F. The Rules and Precepts of Poetry, are like the Divine Precepts, which all are acquainted with, but few observe them: so no question, the Art may be known, but it is not so easily practic'd.

D.

D. I

D. I find then that you are resolve to spend your Life among Philosophers, Historians, and Rhetoricians.

F. All these seem troublesome People to me. For the Ancient Philosophers were only a parcel of Idle Fellows that strow'd about from one good Dinner, and one Tavern to another, whereby they liv'd Merrily, and bred good blood; and sometimes let fall a witty Sentence or two, which many a Man well warm'd with Wine, utters by Dozens. Now the sottish Mob of those Ages, counted all their sayings to be Oracles. Some Years after, an ingenious Man finding these Sentences to be in great Estimation with the People, Polisheth and Publisheth them to Posterity, with the Name of the Drunken Coxcomb that uttered them: and others that succeeded him, finding them trim'd up, and had in Veneration for their Antiquity, they quoted them with as much Authority as if they had been ordained by a General Council; though a Merry-Andrew often utters some things more ingenious, and more to the Purpose.

I am a Man, who when I get a great deal of Money, hear good News, or have hopes of obtaining the Favour of my Mistress, speak more Witty Sentences

in

in a day, than these old doting Philosophers did in a Year, and at an hundred Entertainments; wherein they were treated with the best Wines, capable of Elevating the most stupid *Genius*; and I should value myself for my Ingenuity, were not the World so full of Wise Men who are so desirous to be admired that they would disesteem me, if it were but for wearing a ragged Gown: For in this Age good Cloaths are counted signs of a good Wit, as if some dull Jades were not well harness'd. The other day I met a Physician, a Friend of mine, and asking him when he would clear the World of Sick People, he replied, when he had got money enough to Buy him a Mule; as if the Mule had been to feel the Pulse, and cast the Water. (Observe by the way, that the *Spanish* Physicians, when they go to visit their Patients, always ride upon Mules.)

As for your Historians, they are the most Mischievous People in the World, being all for Battle, Murder, and Sudden Death: and if at any time they relate matters of Peace, they pass over them as quickly as a Cat over Fire Coals. I account them People of an ill Palate, who seem so much pleased in Painting out an Army

of Cowardly white-liver'd Fellows knocking one another in the Head, and extolling a Barbarous General, or Marshal for his great Courage, though guilty of the most horrid Ravages. Is not this the token of an Hellish Nature? I cannot meet with a Prudent and Peaceable Historian fit for my Conversation; for if a Man discourses with one of these Furies, he finds him arm'd *Cap a pe* when he least thinks of it. Thou Historian of *Lucifer*, are there no Transactions of Peace which deserve everlasting Remembrance? Are Peaceable, Deserving, Virtuous Men, to be past over in Silence, and all their Worthy Actions to be forgotten? I have fancied a thousand times, that they purposely describe the Thunders and Ratlings of a Battle, only that they may bring in their Pompous and flattering Orations.

Rhetorick I call not an Art, but meer Trifling; for to perswade in speaking what needs any greater Art, than for a Man to utter his Mind in plain words. When I see a Merchant or Shop-keeper Selling his Goods, who being ignorant of Rhetorick, has the Skill to perswade his Customer, that a Castor is a Beaver Hat, or that Stockings of Hair and Worsted are *Toledo* Silk: I scorn all Rhetorick,

and

him that takes pains to Learn it, or thinks it needful in the World.

D. Now I find we begin to understand one another, and 'tis evident you come to learn Astrology.

F. Heaven preserve me in my Senses, since that Science which pretends to make us conversant with the Stars favours plainly of Madness; and yet suppose we should Calculate a Nativity pursuant to the Rules of those Star-gazers, is it not the greatest Folly to pry into our future Fortune, and to feel our Evils thrice over, at the same time defrauding ourselves of the Pleasure of good Events? We are thrice sensible of our Misfortunes by this Art; afraid before they happen, griev'd when they come upon us, and disturb'd at the remembrance of them. Though I must likewise acknowledge, that the Joy we conceive upon good Events, is sometimes allay'd, and our hopes frustrated of what we most desire. The other Arts, as Musick, Geometry, Arithmetick, and Cosmography, do not agree, with my Cholerick Humour, for not apprehending them without much Study and Difficulty I tire out the Patience of him that would instruct me in them.

D. Well Sir, the College have thought fit

78 *The Lucky Idiot: Or,*

to give you a longer time to deliberate what Science best suits your Genius; in the mean time while your Folly continues, we condemn you to be a Servant, as being the most proper Employment for Fools.

My Friend, who was call'd *Don Felix*, admired and applauded the Fools Examination; observing that the Doctors counted all these Wise Sayings, Follies, only because I did not answer as they suppos'd I would have done. So that I find Folly amongst Men, is no other than a contradiction of Opinions; and we account a Man a Fool who has not the same taste of things which we have: But let us remember that we are no Angels, and have many things in common with the Brutes, and that it is most certain we know nothing for certain. When I saw this Assembly of Grave Doctors, Laughing and Flouting at what deserv'd Applause, I began from that day to despise every Man that was call'd a Doctor, judging them all to be as Foolish as these, and believing that flat Caps and Gowns did not make Men Learned nor Discreet. Nay, so much did I abhor the name of all Doctors, that falling sick of a violent Defluxion of Rheum, which I was afraid would have strangled me, I would not follow the Doctors Direction

Direction to be instantly let Blood; I thought it too much that they often take away a Man's Reputation, by pretending he has some foul Disease, and was unwilling they should take away my Life. Two days after I recover'd, occasion'd by my Folly, in not making use of the Doctor; for had I obeyed mine, it had been my Death, if it be certain what Physicians generally affirm, that there is nothing more dangerous than bleeding in cold Distempers.

I went afterwards to hear the Readings in the University, as that College of Fools had enjoyn'd me, but found it was all but Folly, and so spent the time I should have wasted in those Readings, (which only treated of the Dreams and Thefts of such or such an ancient Philosopher) in perusing one Book or other in my own Lodging, composed in a Clearer Stile, and with much more Elegancy. Who would imagine that my Folly should contribute to make me Learned? Yet you find it made me a Scholar, and freed me from the Impertinence and Disquiet of the Schools.

C H A P. VII.

He proves Treacherous to his Master, in the matter of his Amours; and engages him in a Quarrel, which obliged them to depart from Salamanca.

MY Master finding I was so little affected to the Schools, gave me an Employment which remov'd me many Leagues from them: He had deluded a handsome Young Wench by the Charms of his Gold, to comply with his Amorous Inclinations; and being Jealous, as he had great reason to be, in regard he was very hard favour'd, and cold to Extremity, he made me her Guardian, supposing that I who appeared such a dull insipid Fellow, would give him no cause to suspect my Loyalty and Fidelity, being the more confirm'd therein by the Severity of my Countenance, the Gravity of my Peace, and the Slowness of my Speech.

He kept this nice piece of Goods in an House, accompanied only by an Old Matron, a Young Servant Maid, and myself, who was to be her Guard and Supervisor. Here he Din'd, Supt. and Slept, and

and believing that I kept as strict a watch over her, as if like *Argus*, I had an hundred Eyes, he Banish'd all Suspicion, and thought her as secure as if he had always carried her in his Pocket. I now imagin'd myself in an Inchant'd Palace; for without taking care of any thing, the Tables were furnish'd every day at Dinner and Supper, with all Varieties of Dainties, by the Management of my Master who minded nothing else.

I cannot much blame such Women as seem pleas'd with these kind of Gallants; whose Understandings being weak, are not able to divert them by witty Conversation; they therefore endeavour to make them amends by costly Entertainments; and being also insensible of any Defects in the frail Sex, are more constant in their Love, and less Subject to desert them: whereas a Man of Sense, having his Mind free, flies from one Diversion to another, and is so Volatile in his Amours, that a Woman cannot have so great a Passion for him as for the other; therefore we see such Blockheads better belov'd than the other, because they Love in earnest, Sollicit in earnest, and Adore in earnest.

But that we may not envy their good Fortune, observe how it happen'd to my Master. He had been Educated Daintily under his Lady Mother, and quarrel'd often with the Maids about his Breakfast and other Fopperies, being Bred more like a young Gentlewoman than a Student; from this kind of Education, he had learnt such a stiff Fantastical Behaviour as utterly spoil'd all his Sport. He discours'd his pretty Miss as if he had been talking to one of his Aunts, and us'd such rude bold Compliments, as were in fashion in his great Grand-mothers Days; yet not for want of Love for he was extravagantly enamour'd of her, but from a natural Stupidity and Constraint. With this Treatment, the Breast of the Lady was become as Cold as Ice; and no Wonder since Women are as the Moon is with the Sun: for as she receives all her light from that vivifying Gallant, so Ladies have the greatest kindness for those Lovers from whom they receive the warmest Entertainments. To think they will love thee if thou art Frigid, is meer Folly; thou may'st make them Rich, but never fond of thee, nor really kind to thee; if that be thy Condition, thou wert better turn Fryar and live in a Cell, and not Court Females

Females with Rheums and Cathars: for though many great Men think their Nobility secures them, and that their Ladies have no reason to be unfaithful to them; yet it often happens, that their Gentlemen, Stewards, or Coach men, are more Belov'd and Valu'd than themselves. This was the Case of my Master, for notwithstanding all his Sollicitude and Study to please and treat his Mistress, yet I being Younger had her Heart: the Familiarity that had past between us, making her sensible that my Deserts were better than my Masters. What reason have I then to complain of Ill Fortune, being an Impudent Traytor to my Master by having the Reputation of a Fool? I enjoy sixteen thousand Duckets a Year, which from another's hand, I spend in my own Delights. These and other Adventures of no less Importance, happen'd to me at *Salamanca*, which I purposely omit, to relate the end of my Courses, which were as Foolish as the beginning.

The Poets feign, that when *Jupiter* had Beautified the World with such Variety of Curiosities, and Accommodated Mankind with so many Blessings, to prevent Mens too much doating upon them, he blended these Goods with a certain mixture

ture of Evils; so that the Dignities of Great Men, are mixt with the Cares and Troubles of managing them. The Felicity of Wit, with the persecution of Envy; Men of Merit, are vext with Poverty; Rich Misers with wretched Covetousness: At length observing that Men seem'd to take most Delight in Love, he imbitter'd the same with Jealousie, which is doubtless one of the worst of humane Infelicities. This was my unhappy Condition; for the foolish Girl was visited, and seem'd well pleas'd with the Courtship of a Gentleman of the City, who appeared very Great with his Large Ruff, Gold Chain, and Plush Cloak, as the fashion then was. Now though I was not insensible of my own Merits, yet I much doubted the constancy of the Wench, whose Eyes were dazled with the sight of so much Gallantry; she being already tired with my Conversation which she had so long enjoy'd. I perceiv'd then, that Women for want of Prudence, slight and undervalue Men of the Brightest Parts and abilities: I envied the genteel Ruff, thinking that every hole therein was a discharge of Artillery against that Fortrefs; and curst the Students Habit which I was obliged to wear, as judging it the
occasion

occasion of my being slighted by her: I often threatned to acquaint my Master with her conduct, but she laugh'd at me, assuring herself that I would keep her Failings secret for fear she should publish my Treachery. Thus perceiving myself Jealous, I thought it an ill Omen, and began to doubt that I stood on the threshold of Discretion, and was again becoming Wise; remembering the Maxim of *Carpio* the famous *Spanish* Poet.

*The Man whose Breast, no jealous Passions swell,
And yet pretends his Heart's Loves Sacrifice,
Is either Foolish, or else Loves too well;
Because Distrust declares a Man is Wise.*

Accordingly, I doubted some ill-luck would befall me because I now became Wise, and could not forget that at all times when I ceas'd to be a Fool, it occasion'd me a great deal of Trouble and Vexation. Possibly you may wonder that I was sometimes Wise, and other while Foolish; and may maliciously censure me for a Dissembler, and I could wish it were no worse. Malicious Friend! if thou think'st that the generality of Mankind are not so, thou art a Fool; for the wisest Man is sometimes guilty of Folly, and reckons that some Extravagancies

gancies have the appearance of Gallantry, and set off his other Actions; when we hear a Man hath accomplish'd his Design, we must not always think him Discreet; and when he miscarries in his Projects, he is not for that to be accounted a Fool, because both these might happen by chance, and an arrant Fool may hit upon something very advantageous to him because he could do no otherwise; and suffered himself to be led by his Fortune, his Wisdom being no ways Accessary thereto.

The ill Presages I had when I became Wife, accomplish'd their Threatnings; for bad Auguries are like the People of *Aragon*, who will sooner Renounce their God than their Revenge. I found myself disquieted on every side. If I thought of renewing my Love, Discretion instantly reprehended me, and said, there is no room for thee; Another hath interpos'd with his great Ruff, and large bulky Plush Cloak: If I should have given way to my Sentiments, and repaired my Injury with Vengeance, I was afraid it would be to my Cost, being forc'd to be silent, or else I must Dye; and yet I must of force Dye if I held my Tongue. So possess'd was I with Anger, and so restrain'd by Fear, that all my past Pleasures were my present

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Torment. Wanton Love is not for Virtuous Persons, none but Lewd and Vile Men are engag'd in those Affairs. And though there were no Law to check and deter us from these Follies, yet the ill consequences of them are enough to restrain us: and if we could remove the vain Appearances of Pleasure, we should not be so bewitcht by them, but find their Deceitfulness and our own Blindness in pursuing them. In short, I determin'd to abandon her when I understood she had deserted me: and resolv'd, with the hazard of my Head, to acquaint my Master with the whole Transaction, giving him an account of the frequent Visits of the Gallant, and his Obstinacy in continuing them; adding some of my own Jealous Thoughtsthereto. Upon hearing the whole Matter, he was of Opinion that he must turn off his Miss, concluding for certain, that the Gentleman would not have the Confidence so much as to look at her, had he not received some Encouragement. I commended his Design, but doubting I should endanger myself thereby, since if she perceived herself detected she would certainly discover me, I took occasion to inform him, that she did not in the least comply with his Desires, but that he was
such

such an Impudent Fellow, that she could not be rid of him. He rested satisfied with this, and resolv'd to fall severely upon the daring Rival.

I am sensible there was very little reason in what I said, being indeed always of a contrary Opinion; for I believe few Men persevere in Courting a Mistress, without receiving some Favours, and having Hopes and Confidence of attaining their Desires: But mark I beseech you, how important a thing it is to be counted a Fool, since it serves to persuade Men to believe any Falshood that he shal advance. If *Plato*, and the Seven Wise Men of *Greece*, had told my Master the same Story I did, he would have suspected they design'd to banter him, and that they did it to make Ostentation of their Wit; but hearing it from a Person who he thought had not Capacity enough to forge a Lye (as it that was so difficult a matter) he had no Suspicion that I would abuse him.

Now my Master was somewhat Cowardly and Timerous in the Matter of Fighting and Bullying, and therefore arm'd all his Six Servants, like so many Lions, to guard his Body; and coming to the Street of the *Unhappy Fair One*, we perceived the Gallant waiting with another,

nother, muffled in their Cloaks, at the Door of her House: I drew near to observe which was he, without making any sign to the rest of the Detachment: I made up to him, and at the first approach gave him a handsome Cut over the Pate; for I had two Advantages over him, one in being injur'd, and therefore Jealous, and consequently Revengful; and another, that I began the Attack: The Squadron here upon coming up, we push'd them on all sides, and having given them many dangerous Wounds, (being Seven against Two) we left them for Dead, and retir'd to our Lodgings.

C H A P. V.

He is made a Judge, and gives an Account of his Male Administration in that Office; with several other diverting Amusements.

MY Master, as I have already observed, being Wealthy, and therefore the Opinion of a Prudent Modest Man; so that the very Persons who assisted him in this Exploit blam'd his Conduct, that he should attempt the Murdering of two Gentlemen only upon my Information:

tion: yet no body reproach'd me because I only acted as a Natural. And thus I, for having the repute of a Fool, was excus'd, because I was so; and my Master who was counted Wise Suffer'd in his Reputation because of his Wisdom; when we began to cool, we seriously consulted what course it was best to take to secure ourselves, in regard the Wounded or Dead were of the best Families in the City: after several warm Debates and various Votes, my Opinion at length prevail'd, that it would be most expedient to leave *Salamanca*, and to keep a good Correspondence in that City, that we might be acquainted how Affairs went. Pursuant to these Resolutions we had Mules provided the same Night; and Fear adding Wings to our Flight, we arriv'd in a few days at a Village belonging to the Count my Master's Brother, who at that time resided there. Now though he design'd not to be long Absent from Court, yet the Deliciousness of the Place so much Charm'd him, that he was unwilling to depart. This good Gentleman used all manner of Recreations, and had for that purpose, Dogs for Hunting, and likewise a Library of Valuable Books of all Sciences, for Entertaining the Contemplative Readers. His Gardens were very Curious, with

with thick and well shaded Groves of all sorts of Trees.

In this Enchanting Place we retir'd our selves, without acquainting the Count with the occasion of our coming hither: I was, am now, and ever shall be, greatly inclin'd to the Conversation of Ladies, (tho' I was so lately in the ready way to make a Fool of myself thereby.) I admir'd the Rivers, Fountains, Flowers, and Fruits of this Earthly Paradise; but yet I thought there wanted the Soul of all, namely the appearance of some gentile Females, who, like the Sun, might add Lustre, to the Glories of it; so that I soon grew weary of this Wilderness-Solitude; yet calling to mind the Mischiefs and Dangers which had befallen me by being concern'd with this Brittle Ware I began to Philosophize and conclude that the greatest Human Happiness was for a Man to enrich himself with Learning and Virtue: For tho' other Things made a fair Appearance, yet they are not durable; neither will they render a Man truly happy; and tho' they be pleasant in the Enjoyment, yet a Man pays twice for them; once by fearing that he cannot long possess them; and then by the real Loss of them: For this Edifice being built upon the Follies and Frailties

Frailties of Women, is supported only by Pillars of Glass, and must necessarily soon fall, and thereby disappoint the Expectations of those who are most fond of them.

I took great Delight to lock up myself in the Count's Library, where I past away all Hours of the Day, and many of the Night; smiling at such as would divert me by inviting me to go a Hunting, to play at Billiards, or Cards; for certainly nothing can be Pleasure to us, but what suits our Inclination. I counted Books the most discreet Company in the World, since knowing so much, they never acquaint a Man with any thing till he inquires of them; and being wearied with one, he has fresh Entertainment from another, I studying only for Recreation and not for Ostentation. But the time being come for our return home from our Progress, and the Danger over, by the Recovery of the Persons we had wounded, the Count hasten'd us away; whereupon having gain'd a General Opinion of being Learned, by retiring myself alone among Books, I took an Opportunity thus to discourse the Count. *My Lord, your Honour may be very well pleas'd with this Journey, since your Brother, good Man,*

‘ *Man, has no need of any farther puzzling his Brains with the Brangles of the Schools; for though his Modesty and Retiredness may seem disadvantageous to him; yet I assure your Lordship, he has a most Profound Wit, and thoroughly digests what he Reads, having made a farther Proficiency in Learning within Three Years than others have done in Thirty,*

‘ *Near this Place is the Monastery of Irache, where he may take his Degree of Batchelor of Arts, and by continuing in this Solitude he will be diverted from following his Pleasures, and so may improve daily in Knowledge; whereas if he return to Salamanca, he will hazard the losing of what he has gain’d in this Retiredness. The Count approved of my Advice, and so we spent Two Years in this Solitary Life, wherein I learn’d enough of the Civil Law, and too much of other Reading, and having the Opinion of being a Man of Letters, which I confirm’d by often uttering certain Sentences of Cato, and other sage Philosophers, they began to call me Doctor in the Count’s House, and us’d it so frequently, that I was now known by no other Name than Doctor Cenudo, and a while*

while after we returning to our Centre, the Court, I took my Place of Doctor as if I really had been so.

At this time His Majesty honoured a Gentleman, a Friend of the Count's, with the dignity of a *Corrigidor*, of one of the most Illustrious Cities in *Spain* (an Officer deputed by the King over most of the chief Towns in that Kingdom, with Power little differing from that of a Lord-Mayor: These always continue Three Years, and most commonly are Lawyers.) This *Corrigidor* was mad to be Governing, as might be perceived an Hundred Leagues off: For having a sufficient Estate to maintain himself according to his Quality, he wanted nothing now but Honour, and to be a Governor; and was extream ambitious of showing his Authority over the *Alcaldes*, or petty Judges; but dreaded to be attended with Learned *Tenientes* or Deputies, who would controul him, and command all. He discovered his Fears to the Count, who in Conclusion propos'd my Person to him for One of the Two Offices, extolling my Modesty and Retiredness, which suited well with the *Corrigidor's* Humour; nay, I was told, that among my other Good Qualities he had acquainted him that I was a Fool: Scarce
had

had the Count pronounced that Word, but he replied there was no Man fitter for his Purpose than myself, he having an Aversion to your Pragmatical Pedants, who would be prying too nicely into his Conduct. In short he granted him the Office on my Account, returning the Count a Thousand Thanks for having recommended to him a Person so extremely well qualified in all Respects.

Behold me now an *Aldcade* or Judge of a Populous City, and observe that the Reputation of a Fool was more serviceable to me, than the Title of Batchelor or Doctor of the Civil Law. Is it then such a Disgrace to be reckoned a Fool? I know an Hundred of my Acquaintance would be glad to be counted so that they might attain to my Preferment; and I am satisfied that Folly is not only a very important Quality for procuring a Man Honour and Dignity, but likewise for the Peaceably and Happy Enjoyment of them; as you see presently.

The other Office of *Teniente* or Deputy, was given to an able, but formal Coxcomb, much wedded to the Letter of the Law, as well as to his own Humour; a Man, whose Saying upon all Occasions was, Sir, *This is Law, and I will abide by it.*

it. This precise Gentleman was not chosen by the *Corrigidor*, but was put into the Place by the exprefs Command of a Person of Honour, from whom our Governor gain'd his Preferment, We came shortly after to the Place of our Residence, where I soon got the knack of talking of Presidents, Decrees, and other Trifles belonging to my Office, which the Industry (not to say Knavery) of the Solicitors and Attorneys soon brought me acquainted with, who therefore moulded me as Wax, so that I was all Complaisance, and could deny them nothing: With this easy Temper, and winking at all their Exactions and Exorbitancies I had Business enough, and gained as much as might have serv'd me and my Companion, whom they call'd King *Don Pedro*, because of his Gravity and Zeal in executing the extremity of Justice, which made People avoid him as much as they do Virtue and Honesty.

You may laugh at my Folly if you please, in favouring of my own Servants and punishing of others; yet you may likewise observe, that it is necessary to be a Fool, even in the Administration of Offices, which require so much Prudence and Discretion. True Wisdom and Policy is to be pliable, and to comply with

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the Times; for you cannot imagine that I was willing, nor of so strong a Constitution as to be sacrificed to the Malice and Revenge of my Solicitors and Attorneys, although I was brought up with Onions and Garlick. Here I first became sensible that Power and Authority were great Enemies to Virtue: I have already related how I became improv'd in the Solitudes wherein I lately Resided; how Reserv'd I was, what a Contemner of all sensual Delights, and Enemy to Pleasure; but now finding myself to be a Man in Authority I was extreamly Elevated: No one knows what it is to be an ordinary Judge of a Populous City; I thought myself a great Man, and my Head grew giddy with Honour, so that I was in great Danger of a Fall.

The first Vice I found myself guilty of was Pride, I was sparing of my Hat; wherein my Natural Frown was a great Advantage to me. To all the People of the Town I was a Lyon, but to my *Ab-guazils* a Lamb: I then abandoned the Rod of Justice, the Badge of my Office, for the Follies of *Venus*; I went the Rounds in the Night, not to apprehend Thieves and Murtherers, but to deliver up myself to She-Robbers and Murther-

esses; yet this kind of Debauchery soon became nauseous to me, I did not like the Easiness of it; none of this kind of Cattle daring to refuse to comply with my Humour; I was always best pleas'd where I met with the greatest Difficulties: I aimed at Impossibilities, and pursued them with the greatest Eagerness: How many Females have I subdued with my Staff of Authority! How many have complied out of Fear! I am ashamed to relate what Pains I took to gain my Ends where I found the Strongest Opposition; and judged such Conquests only to be Honourable, and to Crown the Conqueror. No House denied me Entrance, tho' never so strongly barricado'd; for I either pretended that I search'd for a Criminal, or that I must examine the Master concerning a Fact which had never been committed: I remember I once carried away the Husband of an handsome Woman Prisoner, who I had a mind to court, upon pretence of some Suspicion I had of him, and detained him as long as I pleas'd, that he might not hinder my free access to his House. All these Extravagancies my Officers cryed up as Gallant Exploits; commending instead of admonishing me to forbear such Practices; who no doubt allow

allow of them, because all such Fellows are generally of the same Humour, and approve of these Actions as being themselves guilty of them.

I was very Expensive, and thereby gain'd the Affection of the lewd part of the People of the City; as Vintners, Inn-keepers, Gamesters, and all that licentious Rabble, who give or take away a Man's Good Name as it stands with their Interest. The Gentlemen never complain'd of me, though they had Reason for it, but were unwilling to stain their own Honour, being not faultless themselves, by publishing my Dishonour; so that I committed a Thousand Insolencies without receiving the least Check or Controul. How pernicious a thing is it to choose Foolish, Ignorant, and Immoral Persons into Offices? It is like throwing Poyson into a Publick Fountain; every Man has a Share of Death, and all partake of the Mischiefs he commits. But since you may long to hear how I came off with my Office, you must know that the Solicitors and Attorneys are the Persons that represent the Conduct of the Judges to be either just or unjust; and having laid so many Obligations upon them, you may be sure they became my fast Friends, and

E 2 magnified

magnified my worst Actions, instead of accusing me of Male-Administration. Finally at Three Years End I laid down my Employment, with the good Opinion of all, and indifferent Rich; but my supercilious Companion on the contrary Poor, and with an ill Report. Is it not profitable think you to be a Fool? Possibly you will tell me, I was not so in this Affair, but prudent and discreet; you have some Reason in what you say; for it was Discretion not to contradict my *Corrigidor* in any thing he should command tho' never so unjust, because he was my Superior, and I took up that Office with a full purpose to obey him. Again, what Wise Man would not be compliant to *Alguaziles* and Attorneys? To comply with their Requests was Policy not Folly; but call it what you will, I liv'd happily and easily by this Management.

I presented my Person at *Madrid*, and gave such a good Account of my Proceedings, that I gain'd the Repute of an honest and upright Judge. Wherefore the *Corrigidor* employ'd all the Interest he had at Court to procure from his Majesty a more profitable Employment for me: In the mean time I lodg'd at his House, sat at his

Table, was allow'd his Coach, and liv'd like a Prince. Ambition now began to disquiet me, for tho' I had a Natural Aversion to living in a Garret, yet this pompous kind of Life ruin'd my Humility, and I began to indulge myself with the Flatteries which my Power bestowed upon me; I did not think I liv'd that Day wherein I did not command. At the Fame of my Folly *Corrigidors* came by Dozens, offering me the same Sallery my own had given me, if I would serve them in the like Capacity. But I, that must needs be a Fool upon Record, rejected their Proposals, and fell to begging a settled Place at Court, wherein I was favour'd with all the Power my *Corrigidor* had; and tho' it may not be so proper, yet I'll tell you as a Friend, who I hope will not divulge it, I had an Advantage of all other Pretenders, which I merited only by my Folly. For they trusting to the Strength of their Deserts, were not so diligent to oblige those from whom they expected Kindness; judging that they who were to honour them, were sensible of their Merits by looking in their Faces: My Friend, what does it signifie that thou art worthy and deserving, if thou art not known to be so? Proclaim thy Gifts and Parts that

thou mayst be taken notice of, or else never pretend to obtain thy Ends.

In the mean time I learn'd the greatest piece of Court Policy, which is Flattery and Courtesy; I meditated an Hour every Morning before I went out of my Lodging, what new Methods I should take to oblige and sweeten those from whom I expected Kindness: I was the first since *Adam* that perswaded great Persons, that they resembled the Gods in bestowing Favours without any Hopes of Recompence. Another time I thus address'd a Nobleman: *My Lord, your Excellency, by reason of your Dignity and Magnanimous Temper, has a strong Obligation to be kind to me, since it is known you delight in being beneficial to all Mankind; so that now I have given your Honour an Opportunity to exercise that Admirable Virtue on my Behalf.* By these and such other Encomiums I perswaded them that those Persons represented Princes most, who were most Favourable to their Servants.

By the Bribes and Presents I gave I was reckon'd a Fool by those who were so themselves, because I seldom presented things to be Eaten; though they told me I should never have good Success but by such

such means; for such Gifts cost little, yet were very acceptable; I was always of a different Opinion, and would never present any thing but what should be long in View, and represent the Donor to their Memory, for which reason they are call'd Presents; things edible are not of this quality, for they must be presently spent, or else will be spoil'd. One time I remember, I forgot this necessary Precept; for staying in a Drawing Room to wait upon a Lady for whom I had a Violent Passion, a *Duenna* came out to entertain me, and another Gentleman who was an Assistant to me in these Adventures. The *Duenna* began the Conversation, asking him what he had eaten for Dinner, what Cook he kept, and other Questions of this Nature; the Gentleman, who thought himself very discreet, began to invent Twenty Dainty Dishes never thought on before; assuring her he had a Cook who made most incomparable Pasties of the Sinews of Legs of Veal, Breasts of Capons, Partridges, Pidgeons, and Turtles, so that nothing in the World was more delicious; he had scarce ended his Discourse, when the *Duenna* whose Chops watered after these Pasties, desired him to send her one for a Taste. The Coxcomb promis'd her One,

being glad she believ'd him; and judg'd him a Man of an excellent Palate, while he pretended to find out a Cook to verify his Sham-Story. I that was a Fool came next under Examination, and being frighted to think how lamely my Companion would come off, told her, I kept a Cook Maid, who knew how to make admirable Saffages, and a Sallad, which might be given to the Dead; wherein there was some Truth, since no living Body could endure the Smell of it. I was in hopes to have turn'd her Stomach with this course Fare, but as I am always unfortunate with *Duenna's*, she told me she long'd for some of these Saffages and Sallad; I promis'd her them, and honestly comply'd with my Word; but doubting that if the Saffages should appear cleanly she would be dunning me for more, I sent a Servant to buy some of those nasty ones which are sold to Porters and Carmen in the Streets. He carried them, and whether it was her Greediness, or my Commendation of them, or else my Misfortune, every Saturday-Morning I received a Message from the *Duenna* with her earnest desire to me to accommodate her with more of the same Saffages: I was very sensible of this Weekly Tax, which through my inadvertency

inadvertency I had brought upon myself, and thought it an infringement of my Natural Liberty to be thus impos'd upon; so that to free myself from this Inconvenience I ordered my Servant one Saturday to bring me a whole Hogs Paunch, stuffed naturally, without emptying the Guts; he did so, and they seeming hollow, I fill'd up the Vacancy with Garlick, Onions, and a few unsavoury Herbs, and so sent them admirably well season'd; but the Saturday following, notwithstanding all this Precaution, I had another Request that I would be so kind as to oblige her with some more of the same sort. I had then no other Shift to make but to assure her that the Cook-maid that made them dy'd the Night before.

Observe here what craving impudent Wretches these *Duenna's* are; Half an Hour after she dispatch'd another Messenger to me to know where this Cook was Buried, because she design'd to say certain Masses, together with her Servants, to deliver her Soul out of Purgatory, and that they might Honour the Corps of a Person, who understood how to make such excellent Saffages; adding her earnest Desire, that if she had left the Receipt behind her how they were to be

E 5 made,

made, I would do her the Favour to bestow it on her: I was thereupon compell'd to make a Receipt for Saffages of whatever came into my Head, and to send it to her, acquainting her likewise that the Cook-maid was already buried, and that she need not trouble herself to say any Masses for her. However I am to this very Day in Fear lest she should send to know whether the Author of these Saffages be not yet risen again.

My ingenious Presents had better Success, which sometimes cost me less than if they had been to be eaten, and are soon forgot, and yet were generally as effectual to my purpose as if I had set a Page to be always putting them in mind of my business. Once I presented a Pair of Spectacles to a Minister of State, who was short sighted, affirming that they were sent me by my Brother from *Italy*, as the greatest Curiosity that was to be found in those Parts, which wonderfully preserv'd the Sight, and were the same Spectacles which King *Don Ferdinando* wore in his Conquest of *Spain*; I procur'd likewise the Case to be made Old Fashion'd, and very Curious, which added much to the Value of the Spectacles; for if you look on a Horse without his Trappings, tho'
swifter

swifter than those of the Sun, and more mettlesome than *Bucephalous* the Steed of *Alexander* the Great, he would appear but like a Mill-Horse; whereas if he were richly harness'd, though as wretched as *Don Quixot's* Dapple, he would be esteem'd like *Bellerophon's* Pegasus, or the flying Horse.

Nay it hath sometimes been my good Fortune that an *Italian* Sallad, which I have sent to some Persons, that cost me not above Six-Pence, hath been as acceptable, as if I had presented them with a Camel loaden with Pheasants. Moreover nothing is more pleasing to Women than Flowers, Patches, Ribbons, Paints, and Beauty-Washes: If you are not of this Opinion, inquire of the most complaisant Ladies of this Age, and they will be so ingenious as to tell you, that were it not for these Charms and Artifices no Man would hardly look them in the Face. This ignorant Minister put on my Spectacles, and perswaded himself that he could see almost through a Stone-Wall with them; and was as thankful for them, as if I had renewed his Sight; assuring me that he had my Affairs in his Eyes, as having my Spectacles continually before them. This then may properly be called

a Present, that is never absent from the Sight of a great Man to whom it is given. You must remark, That those *Spaniards* who are dimsighted, wear their Spectacles tyed on all Day long wheresoever they go.

Another Nobleman, on whom depended my Hopes, had a great Opinion of his own Handsomness, though he was a skinny, lockram jaw'd Person, long visag'd, and whose Cheek-bones stood out so much that they affronted his Beauty. I having an account of a Merchant who had false Looking Glasses that would shew Twenty different Faces, chose out One amongst them that made a Man seem to have a Round Plump Face; and was imbellish'd with a curious Ebony Frame Inlaid with Ivory: This I presented him with, as the Truest that was ever made, protesting it was the Looking-Glass at which the *Cava* used to sit Two Hours every Morning dressing herself, before she went to enchant King *Don Rodrigo*. By the way, the true Name of this Lady was *Florinda*, Daughter to Count *Julian*, who, to revenge himself of the King for debauching this his Daughter, betraid the Kingdom of *Spain* to the *Moors*, by whom she was called *Cava*, which in *Arabick* signifies a Whore. This Glass I perswaded the Lord was lately

ly found in the enchanted Cave at *Toledo*, by the diligence of a profound Magician, and was a Rarity worthy only to be plac'd in such a noble Palace as his Excellency's, who was such an Adorer of Antiquities. He accepted it with a smiling Countenance, and looking in it found himself fat and plump, and as though I had amended his Phiz, gave me hearty Thanks for it, telling me, no Gift could have been more acceptable to him, which I easily believ'd, because it flatter'd his Vanity in what he had most Occasion for.

Buy Looking-Glasses then, and present them to your Acquaintance, since they much resemble some pretended Friends, which flatter like Looking-Glasses, and make you believe you are Full-fac'd and Prudent, when you are Lean, and Foolish in your Actions. I understood afterwards that his Lordship consulted his Perfections four Times a Day, and was so pleas'd, that he declar'd this only was a true Looking-Glass, and that the right making of them was never thoroughly understood since the Days of King *Rodrigo*; all Arts being so adulterated that they had not the Ingenuity to make a faithful Glass in all *Spain*; so manifest it is that nothing appears true to us but what agrees with our Fancy.

Fancy. You may say I was a Fool in presenting a Looking-Glass to a Nobleman, and that a fine Horse had been a more proper Present; you don't understand yourself, for a Horse would not be a Present; in regard he would not always be present four Times a Day, so that my *Cava* was a continual Intercessor for me. If these Contrivances pass with you for Follies you yourself are but a Fool; what do you think of a Present I once made of a Clock with an Alarm that disturb'd the whole Parish; was not this a good Remembrancer at all Hours?

Yet no Present, in my Opinion, hit so luckily as one that I made to a great Statesman, who was extream Proud, though of very mean Parentage. Fortune, you must understand, rais'd him to Preferment to discover her Power in advancing Men who are little or nothing worth, to Dignity and Honour. He had his clear Ascendency from a Cellar of Water belonging to his Grandfather; but he forgot these Waters were a Reproach to his Birth, and could never see a good Face of his own in them, having himself a very ill one, which had still imprinted on it the Curses that his Grandfather gave to his Afs, who carried his Water-Pots. Coming by chance
into

into a Broker's Shop where a Parrot was to be sold, I began to bargain for it, and questioning its Abilities they told me it was a young one, and newly began to speak, not knowing how to say any thing but *Waterman, Waterman*; I presently thought I had found a sufficient Mortification for the Pride of this Statesmen; I bought it, and made a Cage for it large enough to have held a *Duenna*: I have told you already that I was impatient till I could arrive to live in Pomp and Grandure; for this reason I presented this Bird to my Politician, as the best qualified most witty Parrot in the World; the Cage likewise spoke a Thousand Marvels in its Favour. He was very thankful, and the Bird discovered its pregnant Understanding, by giving Lessons of Humility daily to this *Lucifer* in a Gown.

Every Time he came home, it had a *Memento Mori* in its Mouth, receiving him always with *Waterman, Waterman*, which it repeated with much quickness: now never uttering any other Word, he was much concern'd, and possess'd with an Opinion that some Angel spoke to him by the Mouth of a Parrot: He then began to tremble, chang'd the Scene of his Conversation, and laid aside his haughty Carriage

riage and Looks: Finally the Man was converted by the Lectures of the Parrot; he already gave Audience with more Facility, treated People with less Disdain, and spoke with less Scorn, particularly to me, to whom he often said he had an especial Obligation; and though I knew for what he would never acquaint me with it. A few Days after it chang'd its Note by means of another Parrot at a Neighbour's House, of whom it learn'd to say, *Ab Poor Parrot, who comes there, who comes there?* However the Master lost nothing of his former Credulity, but believed it was a good Spirit cloath'd in Green, and attributed that change of his Note to his own Amendment, and Reformation from his Pride; so that the Parrot never uttered any thing but he thought there was some Mystery in it. I must needs confess this rash Folly might have return'd upon my own Head if the Truth of it had been discover'd: Trust not therefore in such Follies unless you have a great deal of Courage; or that you think a Fool may venture to do any thing; for in short I flatter'd with Injuries and gain'd Favours by Affronts.

But yet methought I was out of my Element, whilst I was not in Love. The Spring
for

for an Office, and the Courting a Lady are so much alike that it was easy for me to pass from one to the other; with Flatteries we sollicite for Employments; with Flatteries we attack Ladies; these with Gifts we approach, those with presents; to gain an Office the least Qualifications are deserving them, because Blind Fortune disposes of them; neither is it of any Importance to the Ladies whether we deserve them or not, because 'tis either good or ill Fortune that makes us gain or lose them. I fell desperately in love with a Young Lady of a Noble Family, and yet more Rich than Noble. She was the Delight and Care of her Parents, who had no other Child to divert their Affections; and bred up under her Mother with Marmalade and Carroway Comfits, so that her little Heart was infected with Coyness and Disdain: The Fame of her great Fortune occasioned her being Courted by a numerous Company of Adorers of different Ranks and Qualities, as Lawyers, Knights of the Golden Fleece, and Gentlemen of Good Estates; but she affronted and baffled them all with her Quirks and Repartees. An *Alcalde* or Judge of *Sevil*, a Man of Sense and a great Gallant, she discarded, telling him she was resolv'd never

ver to bring herself under the Power of Justice. Another Gentleman she dispatch'd, because when he came to visit her he always ask'd how she did, as if she did not look well, or agreeable. She observ'd another Pretender to pull out his Spectacles in the Play-House to look toward the Apartment of the Women; and being Jealous ask'd him what he look'd at? Who to excuse himself reply'd, *Madam, I do not look at the Perfections, but at the Defects of these Ladies; Nay then,* said she with a disdainful Countenance, *I will never have a Husband who is so solicitous in spying out the Faults of others that he discovers his own; for I had never known that you were short-sighted, but for your Curiosity to pry into the Blemishes of those Ladies.* Another valued himself for being a Poet and making Verses; she sharply replyed, she could never Love that Man who esteem'd Lying and Flattery to be Virtues.

In this Trifling manner she wasted her Youth till she arriv'd to Forty Years of Age, her Father and Mother dying by being tired out with her Whimsies, rather than of their Years. And now Old Time began to threaten her that if she dallied any longer with these Delays she herself should be forc'd to sue for an Husband,

not

not without the hazard of being repuls'd. She therefore admitted Visits from ingenious Men, and was ambitious to be count'd a Wit; and that she might be esteem'd an Oracle, gave out that the most Learned Men came daily to consult with her about their most difficult Affairs. I then made my Addresses to her under the notion of a Grave Philosopher; and to set off myself to the best Advantage, repeated Three or Four Sonnets which I had compos'd in my Younger Days in Praise of Black Eyes and white Hands, and uttering very modestly a few Sentences out of the Ancient Sages I was reckoned as wise as *Cato*; but I was sorry to find her so witty; for though I always had a good Opinion of discreet Women, yet I would not have them Wiser than myself; Equality being always most agreeable, since we are in danger to be over reach'd by those that are more subtle than ourselves. I was however fearful of displeasing her, being neither deeply smitten with her, nor altogether disliking her: One Evening, when the Darkeness usually occasions Boldness, and hides Blushes I thus address'd her.

*Madam, the difference between Fools
and Wise Men, in my Opinion, is only
this,*

' this, that the latter act according to rea-
 ' son and Ingenuity, and the former by
 ' their own weak and vain Imaginations.
 ' If I did not perswade myself that you
 ' are discreet I should forbear to declare
 ' what I have been long since desirous to
 ' acquaint you with, for Fear that, accor-
 ' ding to the Opinion of the Vulgar, you
 ' should call that an Injury which is real-
 ' ly the product of my Affection. I have
 ' lov'd you tenderly since the first time I
 ' saw and spoke with you, but with Ho-
 ' nourable and Virtuous Intentions; ano-
 ' ther would say, It is the effect of my De-
 ' stiny; but I do not, because I would
 ' not have Fortune have the Praise that is
 ' due to your Beauty and my Passion, since
 ' your Excellent Perfections are suffici-
 ' ent to procure Adoration from all
 ' Mankind. She having the Vanity to be-
 lieve that the World accounted her a Doc-
 tress, and thinking me to be a Doctor,
 seem'd very well pleas'd with my Compli-
 ment at that Time, and to Appearance
 Matters stood very fair between us.

A Gentleman of my Acquaintance, who
 us'd generally to accompany me in my
 Visits went One day to see her by him-
 self. He was a Person of a good Wit,
 pleasant in Conversation, and very inge-
 nious

nious in Discourse; they talk'd of several Matters, the Entertainment being like an *Italian* Sallad, a great deal in the whole; and a little of every Thing, but amongst all there was no mention made of me; so that I perceiv'd her Kindness was only Civility to me, and that she had no real Favour for me. Being concern'd, I had many Guesſes at the Occasion of it, and at length concluded she did not think me so Rich as herself; for oftentimes Love is so much a Friend to Equality, that it desireth the same in Wealth, as well as in other things. However I was not Jealous that her rejecting me was for want of Understanding or Handsomeness, being sensible, that as to Beauty, every one esteems the same as it agrees with his own Inclination; some reckon a Women handsome if she be Wise; others account her Wise if she be silent, and commend that for a Virtue, which proceeds only from Necessity, as not knowing what to say. Some value Long Faces, others Round; some Black Eyes, others a delicate Mouth, and some are admired as if they were Beautiful as *Venus*, or *Helen* of *Troy*, who are really no better than Doudies, or fulsome Kitchen-Wenches.

It vex'd me that I had made a Declaration

tion of my Love, since I had met with an Affront, or a Repulse, as I imagined. At length I thought of a Plot whereby I might rather make Trial of the reasonableness of my Suspicion, than procure any Love from her by it; I loved her, but was not enamoured of her; I had a Kindness for her, but did not doat on her; and being enrag'd at her Slights, I thought if I could but make her acknowledge she had a respect for me I should gain the Field, and have the Glory of being Victor. I therefore feign'd myself sick, and began to complain that I had an Hundred Vipers stinging my Heart, using such other Frantick Speeches as intolerable Pains commonly suggest. I gave strict Command to my Servants to let no body come into my Lodgings, and lock'd myself up Four Days in my Chamber the better to carry on the Fraud; so that the whole Town rang of my Indisposition, and at length some of my Acquaintance came to visit me, with Three or Four able Physicians from the Court. These good Men felt my Pulse, inspected my Urine, and by the relation that my Attendance gave them of my Groans and Unquietness, they all concluded, yea swore, my Disease was Mortal. This made all believe it, and indeed

indeed I could not tell what to think of it, for though I found myself in perfect Health, yet who could believe he was so, when Three or Four Grave Men, who resembled Old Time by their Age and Beards, did so solemnly averr the contrary. This put such a Doubt into my Mind that the Day following I ordered my Servants to carry *Jacomo* my Pages Water to the Doctors, and shew it them instead of mine, he being the most brisk, and lively Boy in the Whole Town. Upon View of the Urinal these Learned Physicians shrugged up their Shoulders, and with grievous Sighs declar'd, that the Distemper got ground of me, and Tyranniz'd over my Heart daily more and more. I then began to consider that my Doctors were weak and not I, understanding no more than what my Attendants told them of my Distemper.

When I perceiv'd I was well, I resolv'd to prosecute the Imposture, screeking and roaring out so loud that the whole Sreet heard me, and among them my Wife Mistress too, who believ'd me to be very ill, without any Suspicion to the contrary, yet was not so kind as to send to know how I did. Do but observe now what Effect the Inequality of Riches has upon Mankind.

Mankind. I began to think that I had been sick long enough, since the Physicians had given me over, and that it was time to make my Will. I desir'd an honest Friend of mine to fetch a Scrivener, who being come, and having writ down the usual Pious Preface, I thereby-bequeathed to my Lady *Senioria Donna Temeraria* the Value of an Hundred Thousand Duc-kets in Money and Rich Goods, adding this Clause with my own Hand; *For the Tender Love I have born her, and for the Favours I have received at her Hands.* This I delivered to him with a Profound Sigh. *Master Doctor*, said my Friend, extreamly surpriz'd, *pray what Effects do you leave for the Performance of this Testament?* Be silent Sir I beseech you, Quoth I, till I have consider'd how to dispose of what remains; I am satisfied there's more than enough in this Inventory to pay all the Legacies contain'd therein; and therewith I gave him a large Catalogue of Valuable Goods. For this Action I was esteem'd not only a Fool but a Madman.

The Scrivener was no sooner got out of my Lodgings but he hastned immediately to my Heiress, to demand a Reward for the good News he brought; advising her to cause some Masses to be said that

might

might be carried to Heaven, or at least out of this World. My Mistress understanding this excess of my Love call'd her Chair and Servants, and without delaying a Moment, or any Consideration of her Quality, and the Indecency of her Proceeding, was brought immediately to my Chamber; and as if I had really been her Husband, coming to my Bed-side began to embrace me, besprinkling my Face with her Tears, thinking my Sickness was occasioned by her Disdain, and that her Kindness would recover me: Ah vain Women, why should we not treat you as you do us? Alas! Am I sick? Shall I die for Love? Are you in your Wits? Are you the discreet Lady? We shall see anon: I suffered her to use her whining Expressions, to cry, and commit other Extravagancies, pretending myself so near Death that I did not know her.

There were at this Time in a Room a great number of my Friends and Acquaintance, and this seeming a fit Opportunity for my Revenge, I suddenly threw the Cloths off the Bed, and stept nimbly into the Floor ready drest, and very Gallant; and seating myself in a Chair spake thus to my Audience; *Gentlemen, all*

' this is no more than Drollery and an amo-
 ' rous Stratagem; I only counterfeited Love;
 ' it was all but a Jest; I was bred up in
 ' Madrid, and not in the Forests of Arcadia,
 ' and have learn'd to avoid Misfortunes by
 ' other Mens Examples: This Lady, who
 ' for a thousand Excellencies deserves Venera-
 ' tion, was the Idol of my Soul; I lov'd her
 ' sincerely and with an honourable Design.
 ' Now while she suppos'd I was as wealthy
 ' as herself she freely admitted my Addresses;
 ' but when she was inform'd that my Estate
 ' was not equal, she withdrew from me a pro-
 ' portionable Quantity of her Love; I re-
 ' sented this Usage, and being curious to ex-
 ' amine into the Cause of this Alteration,
 ' that a Correspondence so well settled
 ' should be so quickly broken off, I resolv'd
 ' on this Course to find out the Truth;
 ' I pretended I was sick at Heart, yet have
 ' ever found myself sound, for though it
 ' hath sometimes been wounded, yet slighting
 ' hath cur'd it; Love requires Love, and
 ' Contempt, procures Contempt; I was pleas'd
 ' with her, but not in love with her; I had
 ' some Desires after her, yet was far from
 ' running mad, or hanging myself for her;
 ' in my Will I confess I left her my Heiress,
 ' but of Goods that I never was Owner
 ' of. No sooner did she believe me liberal
 ' and

‘ and Rich, but her Love, which had lain
‘ bid, rekindled; yet do not suppose me For-
‘ tunate in my Loves, for I never was so.
‘ She did not pity me as I was Doctor Cenudo,
‘ but as being Rich she lamented me; it was
‘ not my Person but my Hundred Thousand
‘ Ducats that she was fond of. My Revenge
‘ might have gone farther, she being Rich,
‘ Beautiful and Prudent, but I should have
‘ pay’d dearly for it; no, I am not for a
‘ Wife that despises me for the false Shadows
‘ of Wealth; you gave me the Name of a
‘ Fool for my excessive Love, but you con-
‘ demn’d me without hearing; now judge
‘ what you please since I have so fully declar’d
‘ myself.

I had scarce utter’d this, when the whole Company fell out a laughing, for till then Admiration had kept them silent. The *Fair Ingrate* was so confounded at this Transaction, that without speaking a Word, covering her Red Blushes with her Black Veil, she instantly retir’d. The Physicians came soon after to inquire if I were not yet expir’d, and finding me well, vow’d they’d burn their Physick-Books. But every one applauded the Humour, for the most pleasant they had ever seen or heard of.

C H A P. IX.

*A Surprizing Adventures happen'd to him,
which turn'd to his great Advantage, on-
ly for being reckoned a Fool.*

Fortune seem'd now to smile upon me, and to leave me to myself, since by my Folly I had been so successful, and enjoy'd so much Felicity: Yea that which appear'd at first Sight to be perilous and to my Loss, yet in the Conclusion turn'd to my great Profit and Advantage, as you shall hear instantly.

It happen'd then, that being one Day in a Booksellers Shop, near *Sancta Cruce*, I saw an Ancient Priest drag'd along with much Rudeness by the Bayliffs towards the Vicar's Prison, and another Grave Man following him, and filling the Streets with his Clamour: *What horrid Impudence is this*, crys he, *to treat a Father Confessor with so much Barbarity; there is no Justice therein, neither ought it to be suffer'd among Christians.* I came running at the Noise, and was scarce got to them, when the Priest that was the Prisoner catch'd hold on me, saying, *Doubtless it*

is he, although he has a Beard; I am confident it must be he. When I saw myself embrac'd and almost kiss'd by a Man who I guess'd was going to Prison for some heinous Crime, I imagin'd that he accus'd me for being an Accomplice with him in it, and was extreamly surpriz'd thereat; crying out, I vow Sir, I am not in the least concern'd with you, for I am the son of very Honest Parents, and would not be guilty of what you are charg'd with for all the World.

The peevish old Man that made the Noise ask'd me who was my Father; I being very angry at that Question reply'd, *' My Father, Sir, was a very good Christian; and so he taught me to be. He was as good a Gentleman as any in the Kingdom, and no Man could speak any thing of him but what was just and Honourable; it is well known in Madrid what an upright Person the Licentiate Don Diego Hernandez was, and if I have any thing praiseworthy in me, it is in being the Son of such a good Father. I had scarce ended my Speech, but the same old Man cry'd, He speaks Truth, it is He, no doubt it is the same; and coming nearer embrac'd me again with much Kindness; I, who continued still in my Suspicion and Mistake, believ'd that they design'd to apprehend*

F 3

me.

me, and that this seeming endearedness was only to hold me fast, and not out of Kindness; I therefore began to exclaim, saying, *I'll take my Oath it is a false Testimony, for I am as Innocent as the Child unborn.*

At this the old Man that held me fell into a loud Laughter, *By this Outcry of his (says he) I should have known his Voice among a Quire of Singing Men, for such Foolish Expressions could proceed from none but Pedro Hernandez; Hold Nephew, said the Priest, Leave your Bawling, and take notice that this Gentleman is your Father's Executor, who Dyed Judge of the Contraction House of Sevil and came to me to enquire what was become of you, and because I could not give him a good account of your Person they were carrying me to Jail upon your Account. I ask'd them Pardon for my Surprizal; and after they had both embrac'd me again, and sent away the Bailiffs I went to their Lodging, where being all Three seated, the good Gentleman acquainted me, that my Father being very desirous of seeing Spain, and dying where he was Born, had sued for, and obtained a Place in the Contraction House of Sevil; to which end having embarked himself and put to Sea, in his return home my Mother dy'd, and he fell sick of a violent Fever*
which

which in three Days after his landing at *Sevil* put an end to his Life, leaving me in his Will one half of his Estate, the other half being to be divided between his other two Sons which he had in the *Indies*.

I shew'd my Resentment at so great a Loss, and the Truth is, discover'd more Signs of Sorrow than I really had; by which I perceiv'd that when we lament for the Death of any Person, we do not grieve for the Evil that hath befallen him; for if he go to Happiness what Ill hath happenn'd to him; if to the other Place, he doth not deserve to be lamented since he hath but his Deserts; neither if he goes to Purgatory, in regard there is Hopes of his Release if he leave the Priests Money enough to pray his Soul out of it; and if we want him nor, we never bewail him. I finding he had so well provided for me at his Death, was not much afflicted in earnest, but yet I remain'd sad for some time, considering that a Man begins to Die, when his Father, Mother, Brother, or Sister goes before him; they endeavoured to comfort me with spiritual Arguments, though indeed there are no Comforts so efficacious as *Philippus Hispaniarum Rex*, stamp'd on the dead Man's Coin which he leaves

behind. The Gentleman percieving me somewhat comforted took out the Will which he kept in his Cabinet, and passing over several Articles, he read the Item which concern'd me, and ran thus;

‘ *And forasmuch as Pedro Hernandez my Son, is an Ignoramus; a Fool, and an Idiot, and thereby incapable of any Art, Trade, or Employment, whereby to maintain himself; I make greater Provision for him than for his other Two Brothers aforementioned, bequeathing him, by this my last Will and Testament, the One half of my Estate; and I do hereby require that One half thereof be settled upon him accordingly, for a perpetual Inheritance, to pass to the Idiots, Fools, and Nums, which shall descend from my said Son; and not to the eldest by any means, if he be not a Fool, and incapable. In consideration that otherwise he hath a better Inheritance, more valuable and more durable, if he have Wisdom and Ingenuity to manage his Affairs, and gain an Estate; and whereas my Two Sons aforesaid, Diego, Ferdinando, are qualified to live handsomely in the World, I desire and it is my Will, that they be Content with that proportion of my Goods I have allotted them.*

This Sir, added he, I had a mind to read to you a little to allay your Sorrow,
since

since hereby no less than Four Thousand Ducats a Year fall to your share, for your Father now in Bliss, settled his Estate with much Foresight and Prudence. Here you see me Hair to Four Thousand Ducats a Year only for being a Fool; you cannot imagine that this was an indiscreet Action of my Father, for how could a wise Judge be guilty of Folly? What is more reasonable than to succour them who have not Wit to provide for themselves, and to leave Riches to those that are not capable of gaining any. To me I assure you this Clause seem'd the most just, prudent and righteous that ever was made. The Executor and my Uncle (who was the Priest that had been so coursly used, and from whom I ran away incognito, so that he knew not what was become of me, for which he was like to be punished) having instructed me how to manage my Estate, and receive my Rents, the Gentleman return'd to *Savil*, and my Uncle to his Curacy at *Odon*.

Finding myself Master of Four Thousand Ducats a Year, I sold all my Civil Law Books, and made a Vow never to follow any Employment relating to that Science while I liv'd. You must know my highest Ambition was always to be honour'd and valu'd by all sorts of People,

ple, which proceeded from the Conceit I had of myself; I being of the Opinion that Estimation or Respect is founded upon Merit and Desert; so that the Man who is generally esteem'd, is supposed to have eminent Parts and Qualifications. Rich Men can never make Trial of this, because a wealthy Man may be regarded for his Estate only, and not for his Ingenuity or natural Endowments. And so a Man in Authority has more respect paid him out of Fear than for Love. I encountered both these Dangers; and was much concern'd to think, that being a Judge or a rich Man, I was still ignorant whether I had any true Friends, or that they only appear'd so, either upon the Account of my Power or my Fortune.

So I withdrew my Hand from all my Pretensions at Court, where great Men are deluded and sed with nothing but Adulations and Flatteries; and contented myself with my own Estate, concealing it with much Artifice and Care, so that no-body thinks I am any more than a Poor Doctor; in this manner I enjoy all the Priviledges of Poverty and the Blessings of Riches, without tasting the Bitterness of either of them. If at any time I relieve the necessity of some Friend, it is entertain'd with more Kindness and Gratitude,

Gratitude, because I am thought One that hath not much to spare. The least Gift seems more than it is, considering my mean Fortune. No Thieves nor Robbers molest me, since they hear I have little enough for myself. No Woman desires me for an Husband (tho' she may wish I was her Gallant) thinking I have not Estate enough to keep her a Coach, or purchase Fine Furbelow Scarfs, and the rest of the Habiliments wherewith Ladies now a Days adorn themselves; I keep two Servants of my own Humour, and have beautified my House with Pictures, and furnish'd it with such Books as agree with my Fancy and Inclination.

C H A P. X.

He falls in Love with a Young Lady, surprizes her Mother and she coming from Mass, and secretly detains his Mistress in his own House.

IN the midst of this good Fortune I fell in Love with Donna Dorethea one Morning as she was walking like a Nymph on the Banks of the River Manzanares near Madrid, to affront the Rays of the Sun.

Sun with her more resplendant Beauty; her Hair hanging down at Length playing with the gentle Winds; I concluded she was going a hunting being near the Park, and her Eyes verified it, for they made me their Prey; What need there be Swords and Muskets if fair Eyes can wound? What occasion for Artillery, when Beautiful Eyes can Conquer? Such were hers, and were doubly dangerous, because they kill'd at a Small Expence of their Forces, her Glances being sufficient to slay any Man.

The Freshness of the Morning seem'd proper for Courtship, and for Lovers to make their amorous Addresses. I took Courage, and spoke to her in that engaging Style which the Babies in her Eyes prompted me to; I found methought somewhat like a welcome Reception in them which flatter'd my Hopes. I follow'd her, learn'd her House, the Quality of her Parents, and all other Circumstances, but thought it not convenient to Court her publicly considering my Age and Profession. However Fortune presented an Opportunity whereby I might visit her by Night; for her Mother and she were intimately acquainted with a Lady a Kinswoman of mine, and by this means I had
easy

easy Access to them, and made several Visits, so that at length what seem'd only Civility was really Love. Six Months are now expir'd since I patiently suffer'd her Disdains, and that with so much Caution, as not only my Rivals but even she herself his unacquainted how far the Empire of Love has extended its Power over me: I was fearful of running the Hazard that I had done with my late discreet chastis'd Mistress; who, because I discover'd my Passion freely to her, withdrew the Favours and Kindness I receiv'd from her, and utterly cast me off and deserted me, and in the end expos'd her own Reputation and Honour. I therefore treated this Lady with Respect, but in such doubtful Terms that it had the Appearance either of Courtship and Compliment, or of sincere Affection.

One *Christmas* Night I came to her House, just as she and her Mother were going into a Coach; I seeing them ready to go forward, did not speak to them, but stept up into the Coach-box, and the Coachman getting up on One of the Horses as is usual, left me his Place, supposing I was Gentleman Usher to the Ladies; I laid my Ear to the Window of the Coach whilst we were going towards
the

234 *The Lucky Idiot: Or,*

the Carmelites Church, and heard their Discourse.

‘ I wonder, says the Mother, why this
 ‘ foolish Doctor is not here to Night? I’ll lay
 ‘ my Life he is playing the Ass elsewhere:
 ‘ What a tiresome Blockhead he is? Does he
 ‘ think he is able to oblige us by his Sophistical
 ‘ Arguments? We are Women not Philoso-
 ‘ phers: Indeed, cry’d Donna Dorothea,
 ‘ he is a Man of a pleasant Humour, I am
 ‘ confident he is now making Christmas Ca-
 ‘ rols for some zealous Nun of his Acquain-
 ‘ tance; for it is not possible but such a whim-
 ‘ sical Coxcomb as he is, must needs be a De-
 ‘ voto, or Adorer of Nuns; what a con-
 ‘ ceited Fool he is of his Whimsies? And
 ‘ imagines that every witty Repartee which
 ‘ he makes is able to subdue a Heart; Tis a
 ‘ Wonder to me to think that he who has so
 ‘ much Schollarship should be guilty of such
 ‘ Stupidity; and then how does he stabber his
 ‘ Chops at every word; Oh my Stars, deli-
 ‘ ver me from such a Pblegmatick Fellow;
 ‘ for my part I believe he expects that his Au-
 ‘ ditors should applaud and say Amen to
 ‘ every Sentence which he utters; has this
 ‘ Man wherewith to fill his Belly? Surely
 ‘ if he had any thing to keep his Teeth em-
 ‘ ploy’d he would never be so vain; ’tis meer
 ‘ Hunger that forces him to use these Imper-
 ‘ tinencies.

‘ Nay

• Nay there is nothing in the World more
 • diverting, added Donna Dorothea, than
 • bearing him pave my Head and Face with
 • all kind of precious Stones. T'other day I
 • kept account of them, and found that he
 • had reckoned up above an Hundred choice
 • Jewels which were to be found in my Eyes,
 • Cheeks, Lips and Hair; aye, says the Mo-
 • ther, I find he courts thee for a Wife, what
 • greater Folly can there be than this? He is
 • certainly an egregious Idiot, or else he must
 • needs know that the Licentiate Campuza-
 • no has fewer Words and more Deeds; come,
 • come, that Man is tollerable, who though
 • he be but a conceited Ass, yet he is Rich,
 • and hath that which we want. In troth
 • I resolve to tell him my Mind, since he
 • hath declar'd his, and we'll strike up the
 • Match out of hand, these matters admit
 • of no Delay; for there have been Men who
 • in the Morning seem'd to be mad for Love,
 • and yet after Dinner were more hard-heart-
 • ed than Pharaoh. To morrow he'll come
 • to wish us a merry Christmas, and in good
 • earnest we'll make it so, and strike up the
 • Match; for you are now grown up to Wo-
 • mans Estate, and tis a Shame you should
 • be any longer without a Husband.

By this time we came to the Church
 where they went into Mattins; I staid at
 the

the Door in the Dark, muff'd up in my Cloak, and in a brown Study, being more stung with my Mistresses Scorns than I was ever wounded with her Beauty, and therefore vow'd to be revenged, which I thus effected. When they came out, the Coachman was absent, being gone to an Hermitage hard by to wet his Throat with a Glass of good Wine. I got up again into his Place and brought the Coach for them to come in; they entered and drew the Curtains by reason of the sharpness of the Air. I drove on being full of Rage and Resentment, and lean'd back to have heard more Reflections on my Conduct, but they spake not a Word, for they were both nodding. Observing them in this Posture, instead of carrying them to their own House, I brought them to mine by the back Door, which is on the right Hand in the Street, and has a Porch somewhat like theirs; besides their Drowsiness might somewhat excuse them; so they alighted, came in, and presently sent away the Coach by one of my Servants with Order to leave it at the Door of their House, and my other Servant having carried *Donna Dorothea* into a private Room handsomly furnish'd

furnish'd, the Mother was sent home in a Chair.

I must now acquaint you there was a certain Person called *Campuzano* aforementioned, a Licentiate, who smok'd his Face with Brimstone to make himself look pale, let his Beard grow, affected Severity, seldom laugh'd, contracted his Brows, nodding his Head now and then, and saying, *'tis well, he says somewhat*: For all which odd Qualities he was counted One of the Wisest Men in the World. This Person was a Pretender to *Donna Dorothea*, and visited her often; upon my surprising of her, as I have related, he was very much afflicted, and at length, by the perswasion of his Friends, came to inquire of me what was become of her; for having retir'd myself for sometime in my own House, which I spent in perswading *Dorothea* to to have compassion on me, and grant me her Love, I was reported to be an Astrologer and a Conjuror, who could discover wonderful things by my profound Studies, and Magical Arts. After I had a little terrified him and his Friends with some slight Tricks and Amusements, I desired him to acquaint me with the Affair wherein he required my Assistance.

Worthy

Worthy Sir, said he, my good Fortune hath guided me hither, to visit you under the greatest Exigency that ever Man was in, which I will declare to you at large, because I hope for some Relief from your profound Science. As I passed One Evening in a Coach thro' the Meadow of St. Jeronimo (now no more a pleasant Field, but a Wilderness, wherein Men, not Wild Beasts, are hunted to their own Destruction.) Here I became entangled in the Nets of delicate Hair, and was subjected to the Darts of piercing Eyes, I yielded myself up to the Smiles of a pretty Mouth, and was ensnar'd with blushing Cheeks. The Owner of these amorous Weapons was in another Coach; we brought them near together, and there was a tender yielding on my part, and an agreeable Allowance on hers; so that I became wholly her Slave; I inquired out her House, her Parents, and their Quality; and understanding she had a Brother equal to me in Age and Humour, I soon acquainted myself with him, and by that means got into the House of Donna Dorothea, for so she's call'd; Happy in all Graces, I courted her amorously, she answer'd me pleasantly, read my Verses which I presented her, and applauded them; and receiv'd some of my Presents: All this pass'd calm-

by

ly, her Parents taking little notice of it,
because I was her Brother's Friend; sup-
posing all proceed from Common Kindness,
and not from Love. Time, Opportunity,
and Converse, made me every Day more
Happy in her Favour, and my Hopes in-
creas'd by the Kindness she show'd me; Fi-
nally this Lady being exceeding handsome
was admir'd by many Pretenders, because
she had all the excellent Qualifications that
can be requir'd in a Woman; Nobility for
the Gentlemen, Beauty for the Gallants,
Virtue for the sober, and Discretion for the
Wise; but I alone was the Happy Possessor
of her Love; I storm'd the Fort of her
Heart, and gain'd it, but not without the
Loss of my own, if so pleasant an Action
as giving Love for Love can be counted any
Damage to the Parties concern'd. In this
course of Life I pass'd the most pleasant
Hours that I can ever hope for in this
World. When Fortune envying my Excess
of Contentment, stole her away from my
Eyes, and my Hopes.

'Tis Three Days since this deplorable Ac-
cident happen'd, and in these Three Days
I know not where I am, because I am ig-
norant what is become of her. I went on
Christmas day to visit her, but found her
not at home, I ask'd her Mother for her,
she

' she told me she was gone to see an Aunt of
 ' hers; I met her Father in the Street, who
 ' said that her Mother and she were gone to
 ' the Convent of Alcala; perceiving they
 ' were in different Tales I found out her Bro-
 ' ther who was all in Confusion, and not sus-
 ' pecting that I was so much concern'd in the
 ' Business, related to me the truth of the
 ' Matter, and the greatest Misfortune that
 ' ever befel me since I had a Being. How
 ' great are the Mischiefs that attend Beauty;
 ' Divine Dorothea I wish thou hadst not
 ' been Born so Handsome, since Fortune out
 ' of Envy persecutes the most Beautiful; Alas
 ' my Destiny, I was always afraid that when
 ' thou hadst rais'd me so high I should have
 ' a Fatal Fall. Her Brother then gave me
 ' an Account that his Sister had been want-
 ' ing since the Night before, (hoping to re-
 ' ceive Comfort from me, and that I would
 ' not aggravate [his Grief.] That going in
 ' a Coach with her Mother to Church in re-
 ' turning home they were set down, without
 ' knowing by whom or where, at a House so
 ' like theirs, that the Night and Sleepiness
 ' deceiv'd them; they entred into it, and
 ' in an Instant the Coach disappear'd;
 ' they were lock'd up in Two several Rooms
 ' well furnish'd, which shew'd the Master to
 ' be Rich. They afterwards offer'd a Sedan

to the Mother to carry her home, telling her that her Daughter was there already without any Hurt, and that she must be quiet since the Love of a great Man had attempted a thing that had not succeeded; but that Donna Dorothea was now very free from all Danger. The Mother believ'd them, and they bringing her into the Street where her House was, took their Leaves and vanish'd in an Instant; she finding her Daughter was not at home did not doubt but she was betray'd, and that she seem'd to call to her Father and Mother to avenge her on the Traytors, but they found no body upon whom to execute their Wrath. I was almost Dead upon hearing this deplorable News; I have now sought for her these Three Days with great Deligence, though unknown to her Parents, because I conceal from them the Kindness I have for her. This makes me distracted, and for this Cause I throw myself Learned Sir at your Feet, desiring your Compassion; and that you would acquaint me where she is, who was the Robber, and how she is dispos'd off; consult I beseech you with that Spirit of yours which knows the thoughts of Men, that so I may know the end of my Sorrows.

I should not have had the Patience to hearken to this long doleful Story of the
Licen-

Licenciate, but that I thereby became jealous and angry, that such a ridiculous Fellow should have so much Pride as to pretend to be the Disposer of the Heart of *Donna Dorothea*; he had no sooner ended his Tale, but a little Image of *Cupid* that hung against the Wall sunk down and left a hollow Place through which might be seen a fine Room curiously adorn'd; you Mr. Licentiate said I, take Courage, and you shall see with your Eyes what hath cost you so many Sighs; peep through this Hole and observe what passeth. He did so, and saw *Donna Dorothea* in Discourse with a handsome gentle Gallant. This said it is enough for the Present, and the Curtain was drawn; you must know said I this Lady is vanquish'd, and has disposed of her Heart already; it is not convenient to acquaint you with the Place where she is; but you may tell her Parents, that an Astrologer hath prognosticated that she will in a few days be brought back to their House; in the mean time let them make no Bustle, since they will suffer more in their Honour by it than any Body else; but I am sorry that such an understanding Man as you are, should suffer yourself to be deceiv'd by the Flatteries of a Wo-

man:

man; for I can assure you she never lov'd you, and would have married you only for your Wealth without any Affection to your Person. The Licentiate was struck speechless with Rage and Indignation at what he had heard and seen, and taking leave, with giving me many Thanks for the Injuries I had done him, went away blundering, stumbling, and affrighted at what had past.

Don Felix was much delighted to hear the Ingenuity of his Stories, and the newness of his Jest; and now the Holy Days were past, it seem'd very unjust to him that *Donna Dorothea* should be coop'd up in that Restraint which cost her Parents so many Cares and Tears; and finding the Doctor in a pleasant Humour, he ask'd him very seriously what he intended to do with her, and why he had so little regard to her Quality as to endanger her Credit and Honour from which he gain'd so little Profit. If she receive any Prejudice in her Reputation, says *Cemudo*, I will salve it up by marrying of her, if it be not her own Fault; for though it be a very hard Chapter, yet I could willingly thrust myself into Matrimony if I could perceive she had any real Inclination toward me. I must confess, reply'd *Don Felix*,

Felix, that your handsome Face cannot much enamour her, since hers is somewhat better and hath less Beard; if any thing therefore moves her to love you, it will be some excellent thing that she has a mind to, and you are possess'd off; but you have hitherto been so great a Coxcomb, that having Four Thousand Ducats a Year, enough to make Four Thousand Maids fall in love with you, because it is such a charming Sait, yet you have conceal'd your good Fortune instead of proclaiming it to all the World; which when she hears of it will certainly make her fall in Love either with you or your Estate in good earnest.

Friend, quoth the Doctor, you say something now, that is indeed to the purpose, 'tis a new ingenious and discreet Thought; you have spoke an incomparable prudent Thing; the more I think of it the better I like it; I now yield myself conquered, and must confess I have been a Fool; but I am resolv'd from this Moment to declare my Mind fully to *Donna Dorothea*, and to muster up all the forcible Arguments and Advantages possible, that she may yield to my Desires; yet because this Yoak of Marriage is wont to endure all ones Life, I would willingly

willingly build upon sure Grounds, and I think it absolutely necessary to examine my Mistress beforehand, and to discover whether she is not infected with the Follies of *Madrid*; for I heard, from I know not what Philosopher, that the Country in which we are Born hath an Influence upon us; so that Mountainous rough Places breed rough ill natur'd Persons; and the smooth and pleasant those that are mild and courteous; and *Madrid* being a plain, smooth Country, gives some Encouragement to me that she is of an easy, complying Temper. This I will allow you to do with all my Heart, says *Don Felix*, and so leaving the Doctor somewhat reform'd from his Heretical Opinions, he promis'd him his Assistance in performing this Enterprize.

C H A P. XI.

He makes a strange Tryal of the Constancy of his Mistress, but proves very Unsuccessful in the Conclusion.

DON *Felix* having gain'd ground on the Doctor by his Arguments resolv'd to pursue the Affair; and Doctor

Cenudo being still very confus'd in his Thoughts and Resolutions, confesses to him he was so wholly possess'd with Love that he had no Place for Reason, desiring him who was free from that Passion; to give him his Judgment freely in the Matter, and that he resolv'd to be as pliable as Wax to his Advice. *Don Felix* making use of the Liberty that was given him; there is but one Tryal, Doctor, to be made, said he, of *Donna Dorothea* which may occasion you any Trouble, and that is to know whether she be of a constant, or of a fickle Temper, to which End we will use this Stratagem; she already believes that she is in some Nobleman's House; you may feign yourself to be the *German* Ambassador, and invite all your Friends to a splendid Dinner, cloth'd like Ambassadors of several Nations, as of *England, France, Savoy, Venice, Turkey, and Persia*; let it be in a Room where she may hear and observe all that passes, and believe it is real; this being done let me alone to manage her, and you will soon see the effect of it.

The Doctor embrac'd him for this Contrivance, and approv'd of it so well that he cry'd, *By the Life of the Emperor this is what I could have wish'd for*; giving him

a Charge to prosecute it instantly, and invite the Guests, and likewise to provide some Stage-Players to come in their Habits, for carrying on the Intrigue; *Don Felix* did so, and the next Day eight jolly Blades met together in a Room richly furnish'd, where they all sat down at the Table in great State to an excellent Banquet, their Disguises becoming them admirably well. *Donna Dorothea* stood in an inner Chamber at Bo-peep, accompanied with *Don Felix*, the counterfeit Steward of the pretended German Ambassador; she was astonish'd and almost distracted to see herself in that slavish Condition; which *Don Felix* perceiving, " 'Tis now high time, Madam, said he, that you should be acquainted with what you are to expect. *Arnaldo Boni*, my Lord Ambassador of Germany, fell passionately in love with your Beauty, as he happened to have a Sight of you once at the *Prado*, where you was slaying the Gallants with the Glances of your piercing Eyes; and the Majesty of his Character not permitting him to wait on you at your House, and court you pursuant to his violent Passion, he resolv'd with the Assistance of his Friends and Servants to surprize you, and carry you off; which you know was too well perform'd, it

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having

having cost you many a Sigh and Tear; yet he abhor'd to offer any Force to your Will, it being below great Princes to use any Compellation in Love; he is only ambitious that you should comply with his Desires, and amongst other Pledges of his Affection, he freely bestows upon you all the noble Furniture of this House, and will engage to make you so wealthy that you shall be covetted in Marriage by so many Gallants, and may choose him for a Husband for whom you have the greatest Inclination; and you are sensible that for gaining this nothing will be miss'd.

At this Discourse *Dorothea's* Face was covered with Blushes, so that she knew not what reply to make; but being a little recover'd; with many Arguments, mix'd with Sighs and Tears (which I forbear to relate, for fear of making any Reader Melancholly) she discovered the Nobleness of her Spirit, and the Greatness of her Courage, telling him, That the Treasures of all *Germany* were not a sufficient Recompence for the loss of her Chastity, *Don Felix* seem'd very angry, and assur'd her that her Refusal would be of very ill Consequence; but she continued immoveable, and would not give the least Encouragement to his Proposal.

He

He then left her with such Gestures as threatned her with ill Usage for this disdainful Repulse; and coming to the Ambassador of *Germany* whisper'd something in his Ear, which the rest of them observing desir'd to be acquainted with; particularly the Ambassador of the *Grand Signior*, who holding a large Cup of Wine in his Hand, *I swear*, said he, *by Mahomet, not to drink this Health till I know the Cause that has discompos'd your Excellency.* The Doctor, or Ambassador (sitting hid behind a large pair of Spectacles, which cover'd his whole Face, and yet there remain'd enough to have serv'd his Neighbour) gave such a Thump upon the Table, as threw all upon it to the Ground, and counterfeiting a desperate Passion, cry'd out aloud; *Bring her hither presently, for I will have her Beheaded.*

Don Felix went instantly like an Executioner, to fetch down the Lady, which he soon did, Fear having almost struck her Dead; so that she could only ask whether the Ambassador was a Christian or not; and then was brought before the Tribunal, just at the time when the *German* Ambassador was in a Rage, tearing to pieces a Spick and Span new flaxen Beard which cost him a Crown; when *Donna*

Dorothea saw him so furious, she verily imagin'd the Knife was already at her Throat; and she did not think much amiss, for the *German* snatching up a Knife which he found among the Fragments of the ruin'd Table, went toward her like an enraged Lyon; but the Ambassador of *France*, who was an handsome Man, and an admirer of Ladies, withheld his Arm, and for that time suspended her being sacrific'd; they then all cry'd out, *What's the meaning of this Uproar and Disturbance before so many illustrious Persons;* at this Reproot the *German* Ambassador became a little calmer, and intreating their Attention gave the following Account of the Affair.

• *May it please your Excellencies, I by ill*
 • *Fortune happened to fall in love with this*
 • *mean pitiful Wench, I stole her, and offer-*
 • *ed her the Richest Jewels which I brought*
 • *with me from Germany, to answer my*
 • *Passion; but she is so stupid and foolish as*
 • *to say, that my Nation hath not a Jewel*
 • *which can deserve her Compliance; this is*
 • *it that distracts me, and puts me out of*
 • *my Senses; let then the most prudent and*
 • *temperate among you all, judge what Pun-*
 • *ishment she deserves, and consider calmly*
 • *of what pernicious Consequence it would be,*

*‘ if a vain inconsiderate Woman should be so
‘ injurious to an Ambassador, and to insist
‘ with so much Impudence upon her Chastity.*

The German Ambassador had scarce utter'd this, when they seem'd to signify by their odd Gestures and mysterious Signs, that the Crime was notorious, and worthy of exemplary Punishment. After a little Pause, the *Persian* Ambassador, who pretended to be an Eunuch, declar'd, that it was of great Importance for the publick Good of all Nations, that such a Woman should be torn Limb from Limb, for being so insolent, and such a Rebel to Love; and that every one of the Ambassadors should carry home a plect with him to terrify other Women in his own Country therewith; but another prudently alledg'd, that there was no Occasion for it, since he suppos'd there were no more Women in the World of her Humour. The *English* Ambassador, a Person of a mild ingenious Temper gave his Opinion, that instead of Death her Statue ought to be set up on shining Brass, in Memory of so much Virtue, that a Woman should be found, who was such a Contemner of Money. He of *Venice* was for making her a Nun, and drawing out of the Cloyster the first Nun that should come to hand in

her stead, who without doubt would not be so obstinate and contumacious.

In such hazard was the Life of this dildaintul Lady; and at Length after a warm Debate it was carried by the Majority of Votes, that she should be put to death, since tearing her piece-meal, and putting her into a Nunnery were equal Punishments, one being as bad as the other. The Sentence being thus decreed, *Don Felix* hurried her away more dead than alive for Fear; whilst they were preparing for Execution, the Ambassador of Germany made the following Oration to the Illustrious Congress or Assembly.

‘ *Most worthy, faithful Friends, I have*
 ‘ *courted this Lady (the Glory of the Age she*
 ‘ *lives in) with a perfect Love, I have ac-*
 ‘ *quainted her therewith, and confirm’d it*
 ‘ *with the same Assurances that a Person of*
 ‘ *my Quality ought to do; yet neither Time,*
 ‘ *nor my kind Treatment have induc’d her to*
 ‘ *favour my Addresses, her Obstinacy being*
 ‘ *as hard as Brass; therefore since neither*
 ‘ *Intreaties nor Protestations avail’d any*
 ‘ *thing, I proceeded to Threats and Violence;*
 ‘ *however I did but flatter my Imagination*
 ‘ *to suppose that Fear should have more In-*
 ‘ *fluence upon her than Love; you have now*
 ‘ *been Witnesses of her Constancy, and more*
 ‘ *than*

' than Humane Courage; she hath past such
 ' a Tryal as might be said to equal, if not
 ' exceed that of Lucretia Portia; But tis
 ' my Misfortune, that I never was in love
 ' with any Woman, though of ever so mean
 ' a Condition, and altogether unacquainted
 ' with Courtship, but she became colder than
 ' Ice to me. An Hundred times I having
 ' been resolving to compass my Desires by
 ' marrying, which though it be a desperate
 ' Remedy, I shall do but as a Patient, who
 ' suffers his Arm to be cut off to save his Life.
 ' But her mean Fortune contradicts this De-
 ' termination; she's a Poor Woman, a Wo-
 ' man of contemptible Quality, yet this is
 ' not to be considered if she be discreet, if
 ' she be Beautiful, constant and chaste, above
 ' all celebrated in History. He who thinks
 ' that Riches, and the Ornament of the Soul
 ' are to be found in One and the same Person,
 ' little knows the Freaks and Irregularities
 ' of Fortune; since she seldom bestows her
 ' Favours upon those that best deserve them.
 ' Now he that has but a Grain of Sense must
 ' acknowledge, that since Matters are thus,
 ' I have made a Happy Choice of the chief
 ' and most sovereign Goods; for this reason
 ' I assembled you together; for this cause I
 ' feign'd myself in such a Rage as astonish'd
 ' you. The boasting of my Wealth, nor the

* *show of my Cruelty could not shake her firm and un-*
 * *daunted Breast; What greater Testimony can there be*
 * *of her Virtue, and the Happiness of my Election?*
 * *give me then your Opinions freely; for though you may*
 * *think I am too much bias'd, and sway'd by my own*
 * *Appetite, I do assure you I am willing to submit to*
 * *better Judgments, and more mature Counsels.*

They all applauded the Doctor's Plot with Signs of Admiration; *Is this the Fool?* cry One; *How few such ingenious Men have we in the World,* says another! *Assuredly,* adds a Third, *he has a notable Head-piece of his own.* Thus was his Doctorship commended by all the Monarchies of the Universe; who, after Consultation what was fittest to be done in the Business, unanimously concluded, That it was convenient to undeceive the afflicted Bride, and that calling together the Kindred and Friends of both Parties, the Match should be made up; after this the Ambassadors took their Leaves, and the Doctor remain'd very well pleas'd and contented with their Resolution.

The next Morning his Affections carried him to the Lodgings of *Dorothea*, whom he found much disordered and afflicted; our Gallant being now without any Disguise either on his Face or Body, saluted her as a new com'd Servant, betwixt a fawning and a Timorous Air: *Dorothea* could not at first call him to mind, her late Terrors had so distracted her; but hearing his Voice, she sigh'd and lamented herself, and as soon as she could speak; *Perhaps,* says she, *thou art the Officer that these Barbarians have appointed to take away my life? Pray come near, for I perceive already that you seem joyful to see the Revenge of my Modesty and Reservedness put into your Hands; but I beseech you hear me One Word, before you give the Fatal Stroke, not to ask for Mercy, but to vindicate my Reputation.* The Doctor was going to assure her that he came with a different Purpose,

Purpose, but *Dorothea's* Imagination was so prepos-
 sess with Dread, that falling on her Knees, she in-
 treated him with great Tenderness to suffer her to
 speak a few Words

‘ Do not Rejoice, said she, that you have an Oppor-
 tunity to revenge yourself, in regard I have done you
 no Injury; you have courted me some few Weeks, and
 pretend I have wrong’d you, because I have made no
 Return to your Desires. This is an unjust Complaint,
 for you have attempted me either for Licentious or
 Honourable Ends; if for the first, no Reward is due,
 it deserves no Favour, for ’tis a manifest Injury, since
 it conceals Villany under the Covert of Flattery To
 the Second all Complaisance is due in a modest Way;
 and this I have complied with; had I been too easy
 and fond, after you thought me so reserv’d, you would
 have undervalu’d my Love, and have had a low esteem
 of what you so much extol’d. You will say there can
 be no Love without Hopes and yet I did not altoge-
 ther deprive you of them, but only delay’d till I found
 myself to have a greater Inclination to change my Con-
 dition than I have at present; and if I must Die for
 this, it is not my Crime, but my Misfortune; and I
 shall suffer innocently, and with the greatest Injustice.

At these Words, and the Tears that accompa-
 nied them, the Gallant was disarm’d, and com-
 forting *Dorothea* assur’d her he came not to take
 away her Life, but give his Soul to her. She com-
 ing a little more to herself, although much sur-
 priz’d, was very inquisitive to know the meaning
 of all the foregoing Passages; how he came thither,
 and what Business he had with her; he with a few
 obliging Expressions acquainted her, that he was
 the Person who had carried her away, and kept her
 conceal’d so long to her great Trouble and Affright-
 ment; intimating now and then in his Discourse to
 sweeten his Fault, that it was her want of Love to
 him which occasion’d it. He then gave her an

Account

Account of all his Contrivances, the Secret of his Riches, and of his being Master of Four Thousand Crowns a Year, and his Reasons for concealing the same; this he repeated very often, as if every Crown had been a Lawyer to plead his Cause; expecting that his Mistress would have embrac'd him with open Arms, and approaching nearer prepar'd to receive her; but the Young Lady, with a great deal of Courage, gave him so rude a Blow upon the Breast, that he fell backward flat on the Ground, his Head now aking as well as his Heart; recovering himself after a while, and getting upon his Feet, Dorothea thus discourst him;

' If Wills and Inclinations could be purchased with Money as other Goods are, possibly mine would run the hazard of being procured by your Riches, of which you boast so much; but the deliciousness of having a great Estate, whereby to be possess'd of all that this World reckons Happiness, has no such Power over me; you, Sir, can pretend to no Merit whereby to gain my Will, or procure my Love; for it is an unaccountable method of shewing your Love and Affection to me, to endanger the loss of my Reputation, threaten me with Violence, and bring me to the point of Death; this favours more of Abhorrency than of Love; I will never yield up myself to a Man, who assists himself with Power and Deceit to conquer Modesty and Chastity; and I would have you know, that I esteem myself Happier without the Estate which you so much glory in, than if I was possess'd of it; for I shall live more happily with One that is my Equal, than to be a Slave to your Humours, because of your Riches; since then you have acted in this Affair like an impudent Clown, and a treacherous Villain, you shall pine and Dye without Hopes for any Relief that I will ever afford you.

She had gone on, the Sense of seeing herself thus abus'd and affronted had so much transport-
ed

ed her, had she not been interrupted by the Doctor: ' *If you imagine, Madam, said he, that there can be any durable Love without Inclination, and mutual Correspondence, you are much mistaken; never fear Lady, never fear, that you shall be below'd to Excess to him, whom you so excessively abhor; I must needs confess my obstinate persisting herein hath done me but an ill Office, and branded me for a Fool, in paying a Kindness for One who never car'd for me; whilst I had any hopes I took all the Measures that I thought proper for obtaining my Desires; but since I now find that instead of Roses I am like to obtain nothing but Thistles, do not suppose that I am so insensible as not to withdraw my Affections; however you may be certain, that in all this you have not run any Hazard in your Reputation, since my Love hath hitherto so carefully secur'd it. Return then to your own House, and suppose yourself Mistress of that which you leave, without any other Obligation than that you have entred into it, and have Power to command it.*

He had no sooner ended his Farewell Compliment, when calling two of his Servants, and whispering privately to *Don Felix* who came with them, he took his last Leave of *Donna Dorothea*, not without the Admiration of those that beheld it; and it being Night, they carried her, or rather she walk'd home, waited on by *Don Felix*, and other Servants, who as they were instructed by the crafty Gallant parted with her at the Porch of her own House; where we will also leave her, going in and crying for Joy, with her Father, Mother, and Kindred.

C H A P. XII.

He is made a Wise Man by his Friends and Acquaintance, and swears Obedience to the Laws of Discretion.

ONE Evening all the Doctor's Acquaintance met together at his House to make merry, and have a Game at a *Spanish* Play call'd *El Hombre*, or the Man; some play'd, others look'd on, and the Doctor happen'd to be *El Hombre*, as having the highest Card; one amongst the rest, who was a pretender to Wit, and delighted more to quibble and talk than to mind the Play, being unwilling to lose the Opportunity of shewing his rare Qualifications, said, *There is a great deal of Reason Sir that you should be El Hombre, or the Man, since the Ingenuity you have lately shewn, justly entitles you to it.* The rest took occasion to second him in commending *Cenudo* for some time, and at length they all concluded that the late Passage about his Mistress was the most discreet Action that had ever been perform'd. *'Tis well, said the Doctor, (with a great deal of Gravity) that you joke upon me for my Discretion, who have been so cry'd up for a Fool; 'tis much that you don't reckon it an inconsiderate thing, or attribute it to the Loss of my Belov'd; for this too is the Property of Fools.* This Discourse procur'd an Uproar among them; and they affirm'd with some Oaths; that he was as Wise a Man as any that walk'd in the *Prado*; One of them a pleasant witty Fellow cry'd, This Scruple of the Doctors about his Wit is not to be disregarded; and since he is jealous of his Reputation, I find no other Remedy against

against it than to have him take the Degree of a Wise Man, especially since we have in our Company Discreet Doctors, Poets, Criticks, Flatterers and Wits, so that nothing is wanting to perform the same.

I accept of this Favour with all my Heart, said the Doctor, with a merry Countenance because it will put an end to this dangerous Play; for 'tis a terrible thing for any body to be *El Hombre*, and in Conclusion will cost him some Money; Well, says another, you must not suppose that this matter is done of a sudden, for I have brought with me the Laws you must observe to be counted Wise. It seems then, reply'd the Doctor, you did not come to make Tryal whether I am a Wise Man or no, but to dub me one as they dub a Knight; and indeed this is the most certain and easy Way; for I assure you there are few in the World who merit to be call'd Wise Men; but 'tis like making a Knight, wherein the famous Exploits of him and his Ancestors are not consider'd, but he his instructed what to do in compliance with his Order of Knighthood; so I shall likewise be highly honour'd with your declaring me a Wise Man since you find some Glimmerings that I may be so.

Then one of the briskest in the Company taking a Book call'd *Lope de Vega's* Plays, made him kneel down, and giving him Three Blows on the Forehead therewith, added, *Doctor Cenudo wilt thou be a Wise Man?* He answer'd, *I will: Heaven make thee One,* said the Other, *for I cannot.* All applauded the Ceremony, and the President commanded every Man to sit down in his Order and hear the Constitutions of Wit and Discretion Read, as follows.

*We Discretion, Queen of the Universe, To you
Wise Men of the first, and Novices of the lowest
Rank, Greeting; Know ye that we having receiv'd
Information*

- Information of the Follies and Absurdities, which
- those of you that are Lovers of pleasant Conversation
- daily commit, by inventing new ways of speaking and
- acting, from whence much Damage is occasion'd to
- Humane Wit and Learning: for the Redress of these
- Disorders, we ordain and establish the following Laws
- and Constitutions, which you are to take notice of, and
- obey under Pain of a high Displeasure.

I. In the first Place, because we find by Experience, that an ill Tongue, and a busy Censurer of other Peoples Actions is guilty of having an ill Intention, we ordain that such Persons shall not reckon themselves Discreet, but are arrant Fools; because without suspicion of Malice many more Enormities may be charg'd upon such Back-biters. It being the Design of these perverse Creatures to excuse their own Crimes by proclaiming those of others.

II. That no Man, who is inclin'd to Marry or is in Love, shall reckon himself Wise, during the Time that his amorous Fits continue; upon pain of being accounted a Clown, a Coxcomb, and a Flatterer.

III. That no Wise Man keep in his House, *The Academy of Compliments, Secretary in Fashion*, or any Forms of Letters, nor write according to the dull, vulgar Stile, least he be thought stupid, and to know no better.

IV. Being inform'd That in Visits made by Young Gentlemen to Ladies, many notorious Absurdities are committed in unnecessary Questions, we command that it shall not be lawful to ask any handsome Woman, or that thinks herself so, how she does, because it is an Intimation that we think she does not look well.

V. That Two or more Visitants coming in at several times, they that came first be obliged to go away first, on Pain of being esteem'd Clowns for
Three

Three Years if they do not conform thereto.

VI. That it being the *Spanish* Fashion for a Man to boast that he is of a Melancholy Constitution, thereby to make the World believe that he is very Wise; we ordain that he should not be reckon'd so, unless he be likewise Hollow-Ey'd, Beetle Brow'd, Thin-Jaw'd; or shall have little or no Money in his Pocket, for such have Liberty not only to be Melancholy, but to brag of it too.

VII. That none shew respect to One that sneezes, since grave Physicians tell us that sneezing is an Expulsion of humid Excrements, and we may as well make the same Compliment after any other Evacuation of the Body.

VIII. That no Man pretend to use Scraps of *Latin*, Thrums of Poetry, or Raptures of Rhetorick in his Discourse, but to talk Christian-like, as his Conscience shall dictate, and as his Fore-fathers, who are dead and gone taught him.

IX. That he believe nothing that shall be told him, unless it be a mystery of Faith; however we give him leave that out of Complaisance he may pretend to believe all he hears.

X. That he change his Cloaths as the Weather alters, without considering the time of the Year, because every hot day is really Summer, and every cold Day Winter.

XI. That he wear no right Diamonds, Emeralds, or other Jewels, when he can have them of Glasse and Peables; in regard their Lustre is the same, and they are much cheaper.

XII. We charge the Consciences of formal Courtiers, that they cool not their Wine at *Christmas*, who when their Bottles are frozen, and their Wine as cold as Ice, yet cool it more.

XIII. That if in making a Visit to a Person of Quality, a Gentleman should have a Letter brought him, he shall have the Liberty to open and read it

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it immediately, without being counted unmannerly, because he may be in pain to know the Contents of it.

XIV. That no discreet Person ask another what he had for Dinner, or Supper, or tell what he hath eaten, such Discourses favouring of Gluttony.

XV. That they talk not to one another of new fashion'd Cloaths or Dresses, since this is reserv'd to Young Ladies.

XVI. That Wise Men ought to disregard Old Superstitious Fables, Dreams and Omens, upon pain of being counted egregious Fools.

XVII. That a Wise Man do not believe there is any Virtue in Stones, unless they be Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, &c. Or those that are made use of to knock out the Brains of an Enemy. Or that there is any Virtue in Herbs but such as the Apothecaries use, since they have the Virtue to make them Rich.

XVIII. Let none boast of the Nobility of their Family, nor reckon up their Pedigree, since they often appear to be Upstarts, and to be descended originally from the meanest of the People.

XIX. And because some count it an Elegance and an Ornament to their Discourse, to throw out an Oath, a Curse, or to Damn themselves as much as in them lyes, We declare them to be Blasphemous Fools, and not fit to be entertain'd in any Civil Society.

XX. That no Man speak ill of Women although they deserve it, since it is but odd Merchandize, and will hardly go off, unless it be prais'd and commended.

XXI. That he seek not to be prefer'd to any publick Office without Favour; nor court a Lady without Money.

These and many other Constitutions, which are omitted,

omitted, as peculiar to the *Spanish* Nation, the new made Wife Man promis'd Obedience to, and began to appear one amongst his Friends that Night, giving them a splendid Treat, his Jests having as good a Relish as his Dishes, which I shall not mention least I should provoke my Readers Appetite. 'Tis enough that the Supper did satisfy a Legion of Poets; which is a sufficient Commendation; and so concluded this merry Bout, and Doctor *Cenudo* ceas'd to be a Fool, and began to act the part of a Wife Man. Would you then have an Hundred Men vouch for your Wisdom, give them a good Supper, and though you are a meer Pack-Horse they'll extol your Wit, if you are loaded with Turkeys and Partridges.

C H A P. XIII,

Doctor Cenudo is apprehended by the Malice of his Enemies, and committed to Prison for a Conjurer. But at length is Honourably acquitted.

Dorothea with blushing Cheeks told the whole Story of her being surpriz'd and Detention to her Parents, and had no great Trouble to make 'em believe her, for as being part of their Soul they understood her Temper and from thence were assur'd there was no forcing of her Will; but the World was not so easily satisfied, who knew how many Nights she had been lamented at her Father's House, and entertain'd at another Mans; Fame had dispers'd the News all over the Town, and at length the Licentiate *Campuzano* heard it, and who it

it is a Wonder was not first acquainted with it, since he was turn'd all to Ears from the time he had been made such an Ass of. Fools torment themselves by being confident, and gain nothing by it. Confidence made our Arrogant *Andalusian* conjecture that the Beautiful *Dorothea* was his own, and was so possess'd with that Fancy, that the Day in which he had notice the Lady was stoln away, he undertook to search for her upon his own Account, imagining she was ravish'd from him: Confident Fool; was it not better to suppose she was not thine, as really she was not? Whereby in case of any Damage, or Injury done to her, or Contempt put upon her, thou wouldst not have had so great a Share in her Sufferings, nor wouldst have thought they had taken her out of thy Bed, as it were, from thee. And you Gentlemen that solicit for Places at Court, do not sue for them as *Campuzano* did for *Dorothea*, that so you may not be grieved if you are disappointed; but arm yourselves before-hand with Patience, and consider that they are not yet yours, and that if they be given to others they were not taken from you.

Campuzano was now become a Lyon for Courage in the Cause of *Donna Dorothea*, and perceiving that he wanted Paws to prey withal he contented himself with roaring, tho' sore against his Will; but going in a great Rage to the *Teniente* or Deputy Judge he confidently affirms that Doctor *Cenudo* was a Conjuror, a Sorcerer, and a Magician; That he kept a Familiar Spirit, and daily committed a Thousand Violences by Virtue of his Witch-crafts; that he ravish'd Virgins, made himself Master of other Mens Wealth. and perform'd other Miracles which his Malice dictated to him. The Judge believ'd all he said, and the same Night went out with a Guard of Serjeants and other Officers to apprehend the Doctor, the Licentiate accompany-
ing

ing him. They beset his House on all Sides, and using the Name of *Felix* by *Campuzano's* Advice, the Door was soon opened, and some staying below, the *Teniente* or Judge went up to the Doctor's Bedside, where he found him fast asleep, and fearing if he should wake, he would call some cursed Spirit to his Assistance, commanded Four of the Bayliffs to bind him Hand and Foot, which they soon effected.

At the Noise they made, the miserable Doctor awak'd, and finding himself seiz'd and shackl'd, and his Chamber full of Halberds, being extreamly amaz'd he recommended himself to all the Saints he could think of with great Devotion. The Judge being much afraid that he was Conjuring and muttering Charms, fancied himself already in the Hobgoblins Clutches; therefore putting a Gag into the Prisoner's Mouth to prevent farther Danger, he sent him to a Jayl, with a Squadron of lusty Fellows to guard him, charging them to put him into safe Custody in the Dungeon; the *Teniente* staying with an Attorney, to find out the Magical Instruments of Mischief and Witchcraft.

He sent several of his Attendants to search over all the House, while he continued with the Licentiate and the rest of his Train above; who casting their Eyes on a Cabinet curiously wrought which stood at the Doctor's Beds-head, broke it open, suspecting to find some infernal Charms in it. The *Teniente* examin'd the Drawers, and ask'd *Campuzano* if he knew what Conjurations were, who told him, they were certain Prayers or Invocations in Rhimes, and that in a Commission wherein he was concern'd, for discovering a Company of Witches, he had attain'd much Knowledge of those cursed Practices. Looking into One of the Drawers they found some Papers, of which the Licentiate reading some Lines; cry'd out, *These are Rhimes*

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Rhimes Sir, as I live we have found out the Conjurations. The Judge who knew as little of Conjurations as *Rhimes* was in great hopes the *Rhimes* would prove Conjuraton, that so he might make a Holy-day for the Mob in the Market Place to see Doctor *Cenudo* hang'd; after he had cross'd himself several times, said some devout Orisons, and renounc'd any implicate Contract with Signior *Diabolo*, which possibly these Charms might contain in them, and declar'd with many Asseverations, that he did not design to do Mischief to any one, nor to raise any evil Spirit, nor make the foul Fiend take any visible Shape or Converse with him; he began to read the pretended Conjuraton, which ran thus:

*Look down thou Fairblefs Mother of Love and see
The humble Suppliant of thy Majesty,
And though I with no Offerings do appear,
Yet come full charg'd with Sorrow, Grief and Fear, &c.*

Does not your Worship observe how the Villain adores *Venus* the Mother of Love, says the Licentiate. The *Teniente* was amaz'd, and having little Skill in Conjurations, he believ'd what e're the Simplicity and Ignorance of *Campuzano* put into his Head. He reads on,

*Lay Cynthia thy deceitful Pencils by,
Which only feign to ease my Misery.
They Gentle make what's Cruel, Fierce and Wild,
And make that Wild which Gentle is and Mild.*

This Passage is somewhat dark, says the Licentiate, and had I not studied Humane Learning I myself should never have unfolded the Mystery of it; take notice, Signior *Teniente*, of this Conjuraton he makes to the Moon; How! to the Moon &c.

plies the Judge, I find no such thing, neither is there a Word here, whereby it may be conjectur'd; the Word *Cynthia*, answers *Campuzano*, your Worship must know, signifies the Moon or *Diana*, whom the Heathens ador'd by the name of *Cynthia*, for being Born in the Mountain *Cynthus*; and he now makes a Prayer to her as the Ancient Sorcerers did, that she would come down and moisten and give Virtue to the Herbs with which they use to compound their Magical Poysons. At this Instant came up the Ministers of Wrath who had been searching the House, more to plunder it of any thing they could lay their hands on, than to make any Discovery of what the Doctor was accus'd of. They brought in a great number of Cloaths for Devils, Foxes Tails, Wolves Heads, Sculls, Masks, and other such Trumpery, which the Doctor, who I tell you plainly was no Conjuror, but a Man of a pleasant Humour, delighted to divert himself with upon Occasion.

His Friend *Don Felix* hearing of the Tribulation he was in, applyed himself to the Judge, acquainting him that the whole Charge against the Doctor was frivolous; assuring him that he was an ignorant Fool, and an Idiot, and as such a one had spent his Life, his Time, and Estate, in Books, Pictures, Devils Cloaths, and such idle Fooleries, having a particular Temper of his own, and retiring from the Converſe, and common Conversation with Mankind. This being prov'd by a Cloud of Witnesses, the *Teniente* was very well satisfied with the Fancy of his odd Accoutrements, and that the Papers found in his Closet were no Conjurations nor Imprecations, but Ballads and Sonnets written by himself which made his Folly still more apparent; he therefore discharg'd him from his Confinement, and condemn'd *Campuzano* to pay a considerable Fine for scandalizing him. So that after

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Three Days, Doctor *Cenudo* (who had been like one under Water all that time) was again visible and free'd from his Accusation by the Vigilance of his Friend *Don Felix*, who coming to visit him embrac'd him with much Affection, and related to him the welcome Tydings of his Deliverance. He much wondred to hear it, not but that his own Innocence secur'd him from Danger, but that the Negotiation was so short.

Don Felix satisfied all his Doubts, not without some Laughter, relating to him all the Passages of the Process, which having heard, *Well*, says the Doctor *I durst to have sworn that such good Fortune would attend me for being a Fool*; he then recall'd all the Passages of his Life past, and declar'd that all the Prosperities and good Successes he ever had, were occasion'd by his Follies, and firmly resolv'd to be guilty of many that he might continue to be Happy. He then took his leave of his Friends who entertain'd him in Prison, and with Joy to see himself free came to visit me at my Lodging, and to rejoice in his Liberty: Again repeating it to me as a Secret, that all his Felicities proceeded from his being a Fool, and that he was never unfortunate but when he err'd and stray'd into the by-paths of Wisdom, which he would carefully avoid for the future; having made a Vow to Folly that if he escap'd the late Misfortune he would profess himself a Fool all the Remainder of his Days; which I understand he perform'd, and slipt out of the World without any Trouble. Take Courage then Reader and observe his Follies; possibly they may have the Virtue to make him Happy that hears them, as well as he that commits them.



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